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ISSUES WEIGH BIG
ON SENATE FIGHT
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TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, October 7, 2014



HOMELAND

The parents of Mohammed Hamzah Khan, a 19-year-old U.S. citizen from Bolingbrook, Ill., leave the Dirksen federal building Monday, Oct. 6, 2014 in Chicago. Their son, Mohammed Hamzah Khan, was arrested Saturday at O'Hare International Airport, from where he intended to travel to Turkey so that he could sneak into Syria to join the Islamic State group, according to criminal complaint released Monday.

(AP Photo/Sun-Times Media, Al Podgorski)

Feds: US Teen Sought to Join Islamic State

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press
CHICAGO (AP)

— A 19-year-old American left a letter expressing disgust with Western society before trying to board an international flight in Chicago, the first step in his plan to sneak into Syria to join the Islamic State group, according to a federal criminal complaint released Monday.

Continued on page 3

Hong Kong:

As protests fade; students vow to fight on

SYLVIA HUI
JOANNA CHIU
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The students whose calls for democratic reforms sparked the most dramatic challenge to authorities since Hong Kong returned to Chinese control are vowing to keep up the fight. But as the numbers of protesters dwindled Monday from tens of thousands into

blocking, hundreds of curious onlookers surrounded the remaining protesters Monday evening, taking pictures.

"The threats in Mong Kok have passed, and now people are just curious about the sit-in," said 36-year-old Anita Lee, a resident. "That's why there are more onlookers than protesters."

Many in Hong Kong are

streets."

Disagreements were evident after the students and the government began preliminary talks.

Lau Kong-wah, the under-secretary of constitutional affairs, said late Monday that the government and students had agreed on terms for the talks, including that the two sides would be on an equal footing.

Lester Shum, a leader of

ious assemblies. However, some of them are aggressive and use violence. No matter what your attitude is toward Occupy Central, the police will firmly take enforcement action to those who use violence," he said.

The students say they would walk away from the talks if police, who fired tear gas and pepper spray on unarmed protesters Sept. 28,



A pro-democracy supporter uses his smartphone to photograph student leaders Joshua Wong, right, and Alex Chow as they pose in front of a wall covered in post-it notes of encouragement, near government headquarters, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014 in Hong Kong. The students whose calls for democratic reforms sparked the most dramatic challenge to authorities since Hong Kong returned to Chinese control are vowing to keep up the fight.

(AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

the hundreds, it was unclear where the tumult of the past week would lead. Schools reopened and civil servants returned to work after protesters cleared the area outside the city government headquarters, a focal point of the demonstrations that began Sept. 26. Crowds also thinned markedly at the two other protest sites, and traffic flowed again through many roads that had been blocked.

In the Mong Kok district, the site of weekend clashes in which mobs tried to drive the demonstrators out of the intersection they were

wondering if the protest movement may have run its course and whether the students have a clear strategy for pressing their demand that all candidates for the city's top leader, or chief executive, not be screened by a pro-Beijing committee.

"They can't sustain attendance in protests if it goes on and on," said Michael Davis, a professor at Hong Kong University. "They need some strategy where they can withdraw the crowds so they can say to the government that if they are not sincere, they will mobilize crowds back on the

the Hong Kong Federation of Students, confirmed the agreement, but said they had not discussed or reached a consensus on the agenda.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, who has rejected the protesters' calls for him to resign, said in a TV address Monday that the government would seek "a sincere dialogue on political reform."

At the same time, Leung reiterated that everyone should go home and stop blocking the streets.

"There are lots of teenagers and students with passion who love Hong Kong in var-

use force to clear away the remaining demonstrators. The police violence and attacks by mobs drew huge crowds in a massive show of support.

"It's up to the government now. This is the first step, but the pressure has to continue," said Alex Chow, one of the student leaders.

The leeway for negotiations appears limited since Leung and Chinese officials have said Beijing will stick to its decision to screen all candidates for top leader, which many in Hong Kong say amounts to reneging on its promise of universal suffrage. □

IN BRIEF

Kurdish group occupies Dutch Parliament

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Hundreds of Kurdish protesters have occupied the Dutch Parliament building and are calling for more action to combat the Islamic State terror group. The official Twitter feed of The Hague police says the demonstration late Monday is peaceful and that officers are in talks with the protest leaders. Police advised the public not to go to the square outside Parliament.

National broadcaster NOS posted video on its website showing chanting protesters inside the Parliament building holding a banner that said in Dutch "Stop the silence.

Support Kobani," a reference to the Syrian town close to the Turkish border that was under attack Monday by Islamic State fighters. □

Russian leader asks for asylum in UK: report

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian opposition politician has announced on Twitter that he is requesting political asylum in the United Kingdom after being subjected to house searches by the police earlier this year. Vladimir Ashurkov wrote on Twitter Monday that he had requested asylum "due to political persecution" by authorities.

Ashurkov didn't say whether he had yet received a response from British authorities. Ashurkov is the right-hand man of top Russian opposition leader and anti-corruption blogger Alexei Navalny, who has been under house arrest since February.

Ashurkov and several other people close to Navalny have come under increasing scrutiny in recent months and been the frequent subject of house searches. □

New Wal-Mart program may enhance food sustainability

STEPHANIE STROM
© 2014 New York Times

Walmart announced an initiative Monday to reduce the environmental impact of the food it sells and help its customers improve the nutrition in their diets.

The retailer is the nation's largest grocer, and food is its biggest business. So it has enormous clout with food producers and big food processing companies - influence that it can use, for example, to sway how much water is used to produce a crop, or shorten the distance a load of strawberries is shipped, thus reducing consumption of fossil fuels.

"What's become clearer and clearer is that we have a real challenge globally around feeding the world's growing population in a way that doesn't cut down every last tree and use every last drop of water," said Kathleen McLaughlin, senior vice president for global sustainability at Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart's new effort to enhance sustainability has four legs: reducing the overall cost of food, including its environmental footprint; increasing access to more nutritious food; making it easier for its customers to eat healthier foods; and improving food safety, with greater transparency about where food comes from and how it is produced.

The company has been working with a variety of partners, ranging from non-profit groups like the Environmental Defense Fund and Feeding America to big food manufacturers like General Mills and PepsiCo, as well as agricultural businesses like Monsanto and Cargill.

To reduce food waste, Wal-Mart has begun developing more ways to use a "whole crop" in its private label food production and placing an emphasis on more efficient ordering to reduce spoilage. □

Obama claims progress on Wall Street rules

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after prodding financial regulators to act more swiftly to rein in Wall Street, President Barack Obama on Monday claimed progress in toughening banking rules but urged bank overseers to consider additional ways to prevent the kind of risk-taking that precipitated the 2008 financial crisis.

Obama met Monday with top financial regulators at the White House, including Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, to discuss the pace of implementing the four-year-old regulatory overhaul that Obama signed into law in 2010.

"The president has been pleased with the progress that the regulators have made in implementing the law," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said following the meeting, offering a more upbeat assessment of the law than Obama did in August 2013. A year ago, with regulations behind schedule and major pieces of the law not yet in place, Obama voiced concern about the

slow pace and urged regulators to exhibit urgency in adopting new rules. At the time, regulators had com-

pleted rules on only 40 percent of the nearly 400 regulations required by the law. So far this year, 55 percent

have been finalized and rules have been proposed for 21 percent. Nearly a quarter of the regulations

which has been tracking progress on the bill. Among rules enacted since Obama pushed for action



President Barack Obama meets with financial regulators for a discussion on the economy and to receive an update on implementation of Wall Street Reform, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

called for in the law have not yet been proposed, according to an analysis by the law firm of Davis Polk,

last year is a ban on the largest banks from trading for their own profit in most cases. □

Feds: US teen sought to join Islamic State

Continued from Front

Mohammed Hamzah Khan, who lived with his parents in the Chicago suburb of Bolingbrook, was arrested Saturday at O'Hare International Airport trying to board a plane on the first leg of connecting flights to Turkey, which borders Syria. He is charged with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist group, which carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence.

Investigators said Khan left a three-page, handwritten letter in his bedroom for his parents that expressed anger over his U.S. taxes being used to kill his "Muslim brothers and sisters," an apparent reference to a bombing campaign against Islamic State militants.

"We are all witness that the western societies are getting more immoral day by day," he wrote, then

signed letter, "Your loving son," according to court documents.

Khan appeared in a federal court Monday in orange jail clothes, calmly telling a federal magistrate he understood the allegations. As marshals led him away in handcuffs, the slight, bearded young man turned to smile at his parents — his father putting his arm around Khan's weeping mother. About a dozen Americans are believed to be fighting in Syria, while more than 100 have either been arrested on their way to Syria or went and came back, FBI Director James Comey said recently without offering details.

Khan sought to fly Austrian Airlines to Istanbul by way of Vienna when customs officers stopped him going through security at O'Hare's international terminal. While FBI agents interviewed him there, investigators searched his home. It's unclear why authorities

stopped Khan. Prosecutors, Khan's federal defender attorney and his parents didn't comment after Monday's hearing.

In the letter found by FBI agents, Khan also pleaded that his parents not contact authorities. Other documents found during the search of his home included a notebook drawing of what appeared to be an armed fighter with an Islamic State flag and the words "Come to Jihad" written in Arabic, according to the complaint.

Also found were drawings with arrows indicating where Khan might cross the border into Syria from Turkey.

Khan allegedly told FBI agents that an online source gave him the number of a person to contact when he got to Istanbul who would lead him to Islamic State members. When asked what he would do once in territory controlled by the Islamic State, Khan

allegedly said he would "be involved in some type of public service, a police force, humanitarian work or a combat role," according to the complaint.

Khan was ordered to remain jailed until at least a detention hearing Thursday. Prosecutors indicated they would ask he stay behind bars pending trial.

At a two-story house believed to be his family's home, no one would address reporters outside. But neighbor Steve Moore, 31, described Khan as a soft spoken and polite, saying the young man his family were always friendly and quick to say hello.

Another young man from the Chicago area also is accused of trying to join militants in Syria. Abdella Tounisi was arrested last year at O'Hare when he was 18. He has pleaded not guilty to seeking to provide material support to al-Qaida-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria. □



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Supreme Court hands gay marriage a tacit victory

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - In a move that may signal the inevitability of a nationwide right to same-sex marriage, the Supreme Court on Monday let stand appeals court rulings allowing such unions in five states.

The development, a major surprise, cleared the way for same-sex marriages in Indiana, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Officials in Virginia announced that marriages would start at 1 p.m. Monday.

The decision to let the appeals court rulings stand, which came without explanation in a series of brief orders, will almost immediately increase the number of states allowing same-sex marriage from 19 to 24, along with the District of Columbia. The impact of the move will in short order be even broader.

Monday's orders let stand decisions from three federal appeals courts with jurisdiction over six other states that ban same-sex marriage: Colorado, Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming. Those appeals courts will almost certainly follow their own precedents to strike down those additional bans as well, meaning the number of states with same-sex marriage should soon climb to 30.

There may then be no turning back, said Walter



Newlyweds Gregory Enke, left, and Ariel Ulloa celebrate after the Supreme Court decided to let stand appeals court rulings allowing same-sex marriage in five states, including Utah, in Salt Lake City, Oct. 6, 2014. The development, a major surprise, will almost immediately increase the number of states allowing same-sex marriage from 19 to 24, along with the District of Columbia.

(Kim Raff/The New York Times)

E. Dellinger III, who was an acting U.S. solicitor general in the Clinton administration.

"The more liberal justices have been reluctant to press this issue to an up-or-down vote until more of the country experiences gay marriage," he said. "Once a substantial part of the country has experienced gay marriage, then the court will be more willing to finish the job."

There is precedent for such an approach. The court waited until 1967, for instance, to strike down bans on interracial marriage, when the number of states allowing such unions had

grown to 34, though it was still opposed by a significant majority of Americans. Popular opinion has moved much faster than the courts on same-sex marriage, however, with many Americans and large majorities of young people supporting it.

Other appeals courts are likely to rule soon on yet other marriage bans, including the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco. That court has jurisdiction over nine states. If it rules in favor of same-sex marriage, as expected, it is unlikely to enter a stay and, given Monday's developments at the Supreme

Court, there is no particular reason to think the justices will.

Defenders of traditional marriage vowed to continue their fight, noting that several federal appeals courts are yet to be heard from.

"The court's decision not to take up this issue now means that the marriage battle will continue," said Byron Babione, a lawyer with Alliance Defending Freedom. "The people should decide this issue, not the courts."

Sooner or later, an appeals court may uphold a state ban, and the Supreme Court may then feel

required to step in. But it may find it difficult to tell thousands of newly married same-sex couples that their marriages are invalid. The justices had earlier acted to stop same-sex marriages in Utah and Virginia, issuing stays to block appeals court rulings allowing them. Other appeals court decisions had been stayed by the appeals courts themselves.

The all but universal consensus from observers of the Supreme Court had been that the stays issued by the justices indicated that the justices wanted the last word before federal courts transformed the landscape for same-sex marriage. But in recent remarks, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said there was no urgency for the court to act until a split emerged in the federal appeals courts, all of whose recent decisions have been in favor of same-sex marriage.

She has often counseled moving slowly, a lesson she said she learned from the backlash that followed *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision that established a constitutional right to abortion. "It's not that the judgment was wrong," she has said, "but it moved too far, too fast."

The justices last agreed to hear a constitutional challenge to a same-sex marriage ban, California's Proposition 8, in December 2012. □

Cameraman suffering from Ebola arrives in Nebraska

JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) —

An American video journalist who contracted Ebola while working in Liberia stepped off a jet Monday under his own power on his way to a Nebraska hospital where he will be treated for the disease in a specialized containment unit.

At the bottom of the jet's steps, Ashoka Mukpo was loaded onto a stretcher for the ambulance ride to the

Nebraska Medical Center. Mukpo, 33, was working as a freelance cameraman for NBC News when he became ill last week. He is the fifth American with Ebola to return to the U.S. for treatment during the latest outbreak, which the World Health Organization estimates has killed more than 3,400 people.

Mukpo's parents said they tried to talk him out of going to Liberia last month, but he told them he wanted

to help show the severity of the epidemic.

"I told him I thought he was crazy," said his father, Dr. Mitchell Levy.

"And I begged him from a mother's perspective, I said please don't go," Diana Mukpo said. "But there was nothing to do. He was determined."

Before returning to Liberia last month, Mukpo had lived there for two years while working as a researcher for the Sustain-

able Development Institute, a nonprofit focused on the concerns of workers in mining camps outside Monrovia. He only returned home to Providence, Rhode Island, in May.

His symptoms of fever and nausea still appeared mild, Levy said.

It's not clear how Mukpo was infected, but Levy said it may have happened when he helped clean a vehicle someone died in. During his treatment, his

parents will have to rely on a video chat system in his hospital room to communicate with him.

Meanwhile in Texas, a Liberian man with Ebola who started showing symptoms while visiting the U.S. remained in critical condition at a Dallas hospital.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said he would create a state task force to ensure Texas develops a rapid-response plan if an outbreak develops in the state. □

APNewsBreak: Trump name coming off closed casino

WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey

(AP) — The Trump name is coming off the shuttered Trump Plaza casino in Atlantic City.

Trump Entertainment Resorts began removing letters spelling out the Trump name on the casino's exterior Monday morning. Also, workers removed slot machines from the casino, which shut down on Sept. 16.

The action is part of a lawsuit Donald Trump and his daughter Ivanka are pressing against Trump Entertainment to have their name stripped from the Trump Taj Mahal casino, and the company itself. They claim the company let the two casinos fall into such disrepair that it violated quality standards agreed to by both sides. The company is in bankruptcy and threatening to



A worker unscrews letters from facade of the former Trump Plaza casino in Atlantic City N.J. on Monday, Oct., 6, 2014. The removal came after Donald and Ivanka Trump prevailed upon the casino's parent company to strip their name from it as part of a lawsuit seeking similar dissociation from the Trump Taj Mahal, and the Trump Entertainment Resorts company.

(AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

shut its last casino — the Taj Mahal — next month.

"This is a very important step for us," Ivanka Trump

told The Associated Press on Monday. "It was pretty cut and dry: when we gave them a license to use

our name, it was contingent on quality control and performance. They did not meet the high standards of

luxury in every other asset in the Trump brand."

Trump Entertainment officials declined comment. While simultaneously seeking to have the Trump name removed from the Taj Mahal, and from Trump Entertainment Resorts, Ivanka Trump said her father is still considering trying to acquire the Taj Mahal from bankruptcy court and save it.

In a statement, Donald Trump emphasized he has had nothing to do with the company other than licensing his name to it since 2009. "I am saddened to see that the current managers and owners of the Trump Plaza and Trump Taj Mahal were unable to operate these properties to the highest standards of luxury and success as required under the license agreement and consistent with my name and reputation," he said. □

Lawyer: Pot clouded mind of bomb suspect's pal

DENISE LAVOIE

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A prosecutor told a jury Monday that a friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev lied repeatedly to the FBI during the investigation into the deadly attack, while the friend's lawyer said he was a frightened 19-year-old whose memory was clouded by heavy marijuana use.

The starkly different descriptions of Robel Phillippos were presented during

opening statements at his federal trial. Phillippos, 21, is charged with lying to the FBI about being in suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's dorm when two other friends removed Tsarnaev's backpack and other potential evidence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Capin told the jury that Phillippos "created a fiction" about his movements the night of April 18, 2013, three days after the bombing and hours after the FBI released photos of Tsarnaev and his brother

as suspects. Three people were killed and more than 260 were injured when two bombs exploded near the marathon finish line.

Tsarnaev has pleaded not guilty to 30 federal charges and is awaiting a trial scheduled to begin in January. He could face the death penalty if convicted. His brother, Tamerlan, was killed in a shootout with police several days after the bombing.

Capin said Phillippos and two friends entered Tsarnaev's dorm room at the

University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth after the photos were released. He said Phillippos saw the men remove the backpack and later said, "Do what you have to do" when one of them said he thought he should get rid of it.

Capin said Phillippos told a string of lies to the FBI during several interviews until he finally confessed to being in Tsarnaev's dorm room and seeing the men remove the backpack, which contained fireworks that had been emptied of

their explosive powder.

"He understood the significance of seeing those in Tsarnaev's dorm room," Capin said. Phillippos' lawyer, Derege Demissie, held a gift-wrapped box in front of the jury and said prosecutors were "attempting to present a neatly packaged case decorated with the tragedy of the Boston Marathon bombing." He then opened the box to show the jury it was empty. Demissie said Phillippos never told the FBI he didn't go to Tsarnaev's dorm room. □

Alaska's local issues play big in fight for Senate

NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Associated Press

KODIAK, Alaska (AP) — The wars in the Middle East, immigration and the economy are dominating the national discourse heading into the November congressional elections. But the Democratic Party's hopes of maintaining control of the Senate may hinge on issues like genetically modified salmon or fishing quotas.

That's because those issues are crucial to voters in Alaska, one of a handful of states with fiercely contested Senate races.

Republicans are counting on a victory over Alaska's Democratic incumbent Sen. Mark Begich to be among the six new seats they need to take control of the Senate. With Republicans poised to maintain their majority in the House of Representatives, control of the Senate would greatly widen their power to thwart President Barack Obama's agenda during the final two years of his term.

Begich's Republican challenger, former state Attor-



U.S. Sen. Mark Begich, facing camera, D-Alaska, speaks to supporters at an event at the Kodiak Island Brewing Co. in Kodiak, Alaska. Begich is hoping his edge on fishing and other esoteric, only-in-Alaska issues will propel him to victory in November over his Republican challenger, Dan Sullivan, in a year that looks grim for Democrats.

(AP Photo/Nicholas Riccardi)

ney General Dan Sullivan, rarely misses an opportunity to mention Begich's name in the same sentence as Obama, who is unpopular in conservative Alaska. Meanwhile Begich, the gregarious former mayor of Anchorage and son of a beloved congressman who died in a plane crash

in 1972, tries to turn every discussion toward Alaska's unique culture and issues. And Republicans acknowledge that if anyone can take advantage of the sometimes surreal nature of Alaska's politics — small-town, person-to-person campaigning in a state as big as Texas and California

combined — it is Begich. "Alaskans like him when you're talking about local issues, but that's only if you forget the \$17 trillion deficit, if you forget about immigration and amnesty, if you forget foreign policy issues," said Republican state Rep. Bill Stoltze, who was a guest at Begich's wedding but is backing Sullivan.

Alaska has voted Republican in every presidential election since 1968, and it's unclear Begich can defy the partisan undertow that has endangered Democrats in far more evenly balanced places. But the Democratic showed his ability to leverage local issues recently last week when Alaskan Steven West docked after spending four months about as far from the mid-term elections as someone can get: aboard a fishing boat in the Bering Sea. He found Begich at the Kodiak Island Brewing Co., and West's first question was not about foreign affairs or Obama's controversial health care law, which the senator backed.

Instead, it concerned fishing quotas that West, 54, blames for damaging the island's primary industry and the state's largest employer. Begich told him that he heads a Senate

subcommittee with jurisdiction over the nation's fisheries, and he promised that the next round of quotas would be more fairly distributed.

"I appreciate that you've got our backs," said a satisfied West.

Begich's efforts to focus on Alaskan issues haven't been flawless, however. The one major stumble of his campaign involved a spot attacking Sullivan for not seeking a stiffer sentence against a man later accused of a double murder and sexual assault — a spot taken down after the victims' family protested it.

At the fisheries debate this past week on Kodiak Island, famed for its huge brown bears and large fishing port, Begich's campaign had a table bedecked with lawn signs and buttons. One had a slash mark through the word "Frankenfish" in protest of genetically modified salmon.

Sullivan initially passed taking part in the fisheries debate, only to reschedule after a columnist noted that no candidate had ever skipped it and won a race for Senate in the state. Still, Sullivan didn't have a table.

Begich, who wore a salmon pin on his lapel, won cheers for praising the electronic monitoring of fisheries. Sullivan drew groans from the crowd after admitting his brother owns a business that buys some farm-raised fish, though the business also buys Alaskan seafood. Sullivan hit back, repeatedly linking Begich to Obama. Earlier in the day, as Begich won over West with talk of the state's fisheries at the brewery, other patrons studiously avoided making eye contact with him. For them, Sullivan's reminders about Begich's Democratic ties are persuasive.

Cliff Zawacki, 50, took issue with Begich's support of 2010 health care law. After a shaky rollout, the program has extended insurance coverage to millions of Americans who had lacked it. □



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US Financial Front:

Wealthy giving less to charity; Utah tops states

DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Even as the income gap widens, the wealthiest Americans are giving a smaller share of their income to charity, while poor and middle-income people are donating a larger share, according to an extensive analysis of IRS data conducted by the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The Chronicle, a leading source of news coverage of the nonprofit world, said in a report being released Monday that Americans who earned \$200,000 or more reduced the share of their income they gave to charity by 4.6 percent from 2006 to 2012. Those earning less than \$100,000 donated 4.5 percent more of their income, the report said.

The Chronicle's analysis was based on tax returns filed by Americans who itemize their deductions, including their charitable gifts. Rankings were compiled for states and metropolitan areas based on the ratio of contributions to adjusted gross income.

According to the report, changes in giving patterns were most pronounced in major cities, where the percentage of income that residents donated dropped markedly between 2006 and 2012. In Philadelphia and Buffalo, New York, the share of income given to charity fell by more than 10 percent; there was a 9 percent drop in Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Washington, D.C.

Tami Phillips of the Midnight Mission, a Los Angeles



Brian Ellis, an algebra teacher, works with his students at First Coast High School. Ellis is a Jacksonville School Leadership Fellow, a Quality Education for All program that takes high-performing teachers and trains them to become school principals. A Monday, Oct. 6, 2014 report by the Chronicle of Philanthropy detailed how Jacksonville donors had rallied behind a campaign to improve the region's public schools via a Quality Education for All fund launched in 2005 with a goal of raising \$50 million. (AP Photo/Susan Sanders)

charity serving homeless people, credited gifts from low- and moderate-income people, for helping

sustain its programs during the recession.

"It hits closer to home," said Phillips. "Any day, they too

could become homeless." The Chronicle's editor, Stacy Palmer, noted that wealthy donors, overall, were more oriented toward support of the arts and higher education than lower-income donors, and less oriented toward support of social-service charities.

At the state level, residents of Utah were the nation's most generous, donating \$65.60 to charity for every \$1,000 they earned. One factor is Utah's large presence of Mormons, whose church practices call for them to give at least 10 percent of their income to charity.

Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee — also with high proportions of loyal churchgoers — were next in the rankings.

At the bottom of the list was

New Hampshire, where residents gave \$17.40 for every \$1,000 they earned. Its neighbors, Maine and Vermont, were the next lowest.

Palmer suggested that the low rankings for northern New England stemmed in part from low rates of church attendance, but also from residents' "independent streak" and a tradition of self-reliance.

Nevada was the state with the fastest-growing rate of donations as a share of income, jumping nearly 13 percent from 2006 to 2012. Its major metropolitan, Las Vegas, was the fastest-growing city in terms of generosity, rising 21 places since 2006 in a ranking of the country's 50 largest urban areas. North Dakota experienced the biggest decline in giving. □

Paulson: AIG bailout designed to be punishment

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 2008 government bailout of American International Group Inc. was specifically designed to punish the insurance giant, former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said in U.S. court Monday.

The \$85 billion loan package extended to AIG — then reeling from the financial and housing crisis — gave the government control of 80 percent of its stock. Unlike other major financial firms rescued in the middle of the worst economic downturn in roughly 80 years, Paulson said that AIG shareholders should have faced pun-

ishment for their troubled balance sheet as part of any rescue. Paulson's testimony came as part of a lawsuit brought by former AIG chairman and CEO Maurice Greenberg. The 89-year-old is suing the federal government for damages of roughly \$40 billion, saying that it violated the Constitution's Fifth Amendment by taking control of AIG without "just compensation" in return for the shares. Paulson's successor as Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, and former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke are also scheduled to testify this week.

Federal officials didn't want troubled financial institutions to assume they

could receive a bailout without any negative consequences. Otherwise, it might encourage those firms to engage in reckless behavior. This concept known as "moral hazard" applied to AIG but not other banks because of the multiple pressures that existed in the market in September and October of 2008.

At the time, financial investors known as short-sellers were betting that shares in AIG and prominent banks such as Citigroup would continue to plunge. Paulson said that his goal was to stabilize the financial system, which meant that the government offered less punishing terms to the

banks being bailed out in order to limit the market freefall. But few other insurers faced the same risks as AIG, so the Federal Reserve-backed loan could punish shareholders to prevent moral hazard.

"I believe the Fed-designed AIG terms were appropriate," Paulson said in testimony at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. "I didn't see any other insurance company that was vulnerable or like AIG."

Greenberg's lawyer, David Boies, pressed Paulson in court about whether the former Treasury secretary was overly harsh on AIG in order to quell public anger and pass the Troubled Asset Relief Program. □



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Let's Talk About Women's Empowerment (and Do Some Marketing)

**CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY
LESLIE KAUFMAN**
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Lia Zneimer, a 27-year-old employee at the publisher Scholastic, joined 250 other invitees at a Manhattan hotel Wednesday for a Time Inc. event called Women & Success.

In two panels moderated by editors of Time and Real Simple magazines, Zneimer heard Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand of New York and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, the songwriter behind the "Frozen" song "Let it Go," share their personal experiences with success and failure. Zneimer said she walked away inspired by Gillibrand's thoughts about "having it all versus doing it all."

After the panels, Zneimer sipped wine, chatted with other women and then left with a copy of Gillibrand's book, "Off the Sidelines: Raise Your Voice, Change the World." The event left her wanting more, she said. Conferences promoting women's empowerment are on the rise and haven't had this kind of cachet since the feminist movement encouraged consciousness-raising groups in the 1970s. This time, however, the booster sessions are not being run by friends in their living rooms, but by media companies looking to align themselves with a generation of working women - and corporate sponsors - eager to celebrate their achievements and push for new career heights.

Among those that have added women-focused events in recent years are National Journal (Women in Washington), The Atlantic (Women of Washington), More magazine (How to Command a Room) and Cosmopolitan (Cosmo's Fun Fearless Life). Other

prominent media personalities continue to expand their conference businesses, like Arianna Huffington (Thrive) and Tina Brown (Women in the World).

While no one tracks exactly how many conferences there are, those who both attend and produce them recognize that something of a bubble has formed in recent years. The space has become very crowded, they say, and they could spend nearly every week attending an event focused on women.

The companies involved in organizing these conferences suggest several reasons for the increasing popularity of the events. One is that there are more women in positions of power than ever before. Pattie Sellers, a co-chairwoman and co-founder of Fortune's Most Powerful Women conference, said that when it started 16 years ago, there was one female CEO of a Fortune 500 company; today, there are 25. "In hindsight," she said, "we were going after a

Powerful Women franchise. On Monday, a three-day gathering got underway, with 400 attendees at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Laguna Niguel, California. Sponsors include Citigroup, Cadillac and Pfizer; scheduled speakers include Mary T. Barra, chief executive of General Motors, and Melinda Gates, co-head of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

This year, Fortune raised the cost of its main conference by \$1,000 dollars to \$8,500 (and it still had a

onto a women's list," she said. The shift, said Sellers and others, is partly a result of several recent women-centric books, mostly notably "Lean In," by the Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg.

"We are having a moment," said Debora L. Spar, president of Barnard College and the author of "Wonder Women: Sex, Power and the Quest for Perfection."

Spar added: "Young women are identifying as feminist at levels and in ways that haven't been seen since the 1970s. And these are young women who grew up saying feminism wasn't for them, but for a range of strange reasons have come to identify with."

Balancing family and career advancement is an issue that invariably becomes a focus at these events. Poppy MacDonald, president and publisher of National Journal, said that even though work-life balance was not explicitly on the agenda of recent conferences, it came up all the time anyway. "It is usually the first question from the audience," MacDonald said.

Women's events that are attention-grabbing enough can raise a magazine's stature with news organizations and others the publications want to impress.

Cindi Leive, Glamour's editor-in-chief, remembers the magazine's first Women of the Year Awards in 1990, an event for 250 women. It has now grown to 3,000 attendees and is held at Carnegie Hall. The event draws media coverage, and for Glamour, Leive said, it helps its relations with Hollywood, where the magazine seeks many of its cover models. □



Successful women speak at a Women & Success event in New York, Oct. 1, 2014. Conferences promoting women's empowerment are on the rise and haven't had this kind of cachet since the feminist movement encouraged consciousness-raising groups in the 1970s. From left: Kristin van Ogtrop, editor of Real Simple magazine, Linda McMahon, a principal of World Wrestling Entertainment, Tamron Hall, correspondent for NBC News, and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, a songwriter.
(Yana Paskova/The New York Times)

Based on the number of invitations she receives, Moira Forbes, president of Forbes Women, estimates that the number of these events has nearly tripled in the past two years. Forbes Women holds two annual conferences called Forbes Women's Summit: Power Redefined in the United States and Asia.

"I feel like we're reaching kind of a saturation point," said Lesley Jane Seymour, editor-in-chief of More. "I feel like it's everywhere. Everybody's doing it; everybody's trying to get in on this."

growing market."

But the major driver for the expanding women's conference scene is that as magazine companies struggle with problems in their core print businesses - declining newsstand sales and soft advertising - these events bring in additional revenue. Ken Doctor, a media analyst, said there had been a shift to more conferences because companies hesitant to spend on print advertising see more value in sponsoring events.

Consider the continued growth of Fortune's Most

waiting list of 250 people) and also started distributing a daily newsletter focused on women. On Monday, it introduced a women-focused channel on Fortune's website and is starting MPW Next Gen, a new conference aimed at up-and-coming female business leaders.

Sellers said that women had also become less hesitant about flaunting their status. "At first, leaders like Carly Fiorina and Oprah Winfrey were extremely uncomfortable with the word power and worried about being segregated

Islamic State wages assault on Syrian border town

RYAN LUCAS
LETERIS PITARAKIS

Associated Press
MURSIPTINAR, Turkey (AP)

— Islamic State fighters backed by tanks and artillery pushed into an embattled Syrian town on the border with Turkey on Monday, touching off heavy street battles with the town's Kurdish defenders. Hours after the militants raised two of their Islamic State group's black flags on the outskirts of Kobani, the militants punctured the Kurdish front lines and advanced into the town itself, the Local Coordination Committees activist collective and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"They're fighting inside the city. Hundreds of civilians have left," said Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman. "The Islamic State controls three neighborhoods on the eastern side of Kobani. They are trying to enter the town from the southwest as well."

The center of the town was still in Kurdish hands, Abdurrahman said. Kurdish officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Since it began its offensive in mid-September, the Is-

lamic State group has barrelled through one Kurdish village after another as it closed in on its main target — the town of Kobani, also known as Ayn Arab. The assault has forced some 160,000 Syrians to flee and put a strain on Kurdish forces, who have struggled to hold off the extremists even with the aid of limited U.S.-led airstrikes. Capturing Kobani would give the Islamic State group, which already rules a huge stretch of territory spanning the Syria-Iraq border, a direct link between its positions in the Syrian province of Aleppo and its stronghold of Raqqa, to the east. It would also crush a lingering pocket of resistance and give the group full control of a large stretch of the Turkish-Syrian border.

After initially setting up positions to the east, south and west of the town, the Islamic State group shelled Kobani for days to try to loosen up the defenses. Just across the frontier in Turkey, the steady thud of artillery, sharp crackle of gunfire and plumes of smoke rising over the rooftops testified to the intensity of the fight all day Monday.

"ISIS is advancing further toward Kobani day by day,"

said Ismet Sheikh Hassan, the defense chief for Kurdish forces in the area, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group. "ISIS is fighting with tanks and

20 Islamic State fighters managed to sneak into the eastern part of Kobani overnight, but were ambushed and killed by Kurdish militiamen.

effective adversaries of the Islamic State group, keeping the extremists out of the Kurdish enclave in northeastern Syria even as the militants routed the armed



Press photographers take pictures of Turkish tanks holding their positions on a hilltop in the outskirts of Suruc, at the Turkey-Syria border, overlooking Kobani in Syria where fighting had ben intensified between Syrian Kurds and the militants of Islamic State, group Monday, Oct. 6, 2014. Kobani, also known as Ayn Arab and its surrounding areas have been under attack since mid-September, with militants capturing dozens of nearby Kurdish villages.

(AP Photo/Letteris Pitarakis)

heavy weapons and they are firing randomly at Kobani. There are many civilian casualties because of the shelling."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said about

Syrian Kurdish forces have long been among the most forces of both Syria and neighboring Iraq. □

Turkey:

NATO has plan to defend the country

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The NATO alliance has drawn up a strategy to defend Turkey if it is attacked along its border with Syria, a Turkish official said Monday. Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz, whose country is a NATO member, said the alliance did that at his government's request as Islamic State militants, who have captured a large swath of Iraq and Syria, are trying to take the Syrian town of Kobani near the Turkish border.

"If there is an attack, NATO's joint defense mechanisms will be activated," Yilmaz told reporters. "From the moment the incidents relating to Syria first started,

we asked NATO to prepare for possibilities to make plans. NATO prepared a plan taking various alternatives into account." "Therefore," he said, "if there is an attack on Turkey, NATO will bring about the provisions of Article 5 of the Washington Convention." Article 5 states that an attack against one NATO member shall be considered an attack against all members. NATO's new secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, appeared to confirm what Turkey was saying during a news conference in Warsaw, Poland, on Monday. After expressing concern about the violence in Syria and the fact that it has spilled over into Iraq, he said: "The main responsibil-

ity for NATO is to protect all allied countries. Turkey is a NATO ally and our main responsibility is to protect the integrity, the borders of Turkey, and that's the reason why we have deployed Patriot missiles in Turkey to enhance, to strengthen their air defense of Turkey. And Turkey should know that NATO will be there if there is any spillover, any attacks on Turkey as a consequence of the violence we see in Syria."

Kurdish forces are defending Kobani, but two banners of the Islamic State group were raised over a building and a nearby hill on Monday, suggesting that the militants may have broken through the Kurdish perimeter. □



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Spanish nurse in Madrid diagnosed with Ebola

JORGE SAINZ
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — In the first known transmission of the current outbreak of Ebola outside West Africa, a Spanish nurse who treated a missionary for the disease at a Madrid hospital has tested positive for the virus, Spain's health minister said Monday.

The female nurse was part of the medical team that treated a 69-year-old Spanish priest who died in a hospital last month after being flown back from Sierra Leone, where he was posted, Health Minister Ana Mato said. The nurse is believed to have contracted the virus from that priest.

The World Health Organization confirmed there has not been a previous transmission outside West Africa in the current outbreak. WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told The Associated Press that so far there have only been confirmed cases in West Africa and the United States, and no known transmission outside West Africa. The organization is awaiting official notification of the case from

Spanish authorities.

The woman went to the Alcorcon hospital in the Madrid suburbs with a fever on Sunday and was placed in isolation. Mato said the infection was confirmed by two tests. The woman's only symptom was a fever and she was on vacation when she fell sick, Antonio Alemany, Madrid director of primary health care, told a news conference. Alemany said authorities are drawing up a list of people the nurse had contact with, though he did not say how many people that might be, or where she went on holiday. She is married but does not have children.

Nobody apart from the woman is in quarantine, but her husband and the paramedics who admitted her on Sunday are being monitored. Officials did not say how or where.

The nurse helped treat two Spanish missionaries who died after being flown back to Madrid with the deadly virus, officials said. She cared for Manuel Garcia Viejo, who died Sept. 25. In August, she also helped treat 75-year-old

Spanish priest Miguel Pajares, who was flown back to Spain from Liberia, but died after being treated with the experimental Ebola medicine ZMapp.

contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person who is showing symptoms. Spanish authorities said they were investigating how the nurse became in-

More than 370 health workers in West Africa have become infected in this outbreak, and more than half of those have died. Doctors and nurses there have



Spain's Health Minister Ana Mato walks past members of the media as she leaves a news conference on the first reported incident of Ebola transmission outside Africa, in Madrid, Spain, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014. A Spanish nurse who treated a missionary for the disease at a Madrid hospital tested positive for the virus, Mato said Monday. The female nurse was part of the medical team that treated a 69-year-old Spanish priest who died in a hospital last month after being flown back from Sierra Leone, where he was posted.

(AP Photo/Paul White)

The woman will be transferred for treatment to Madrid's Carlos III hospital. The virus that causes Ebola spreads only through direct

contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person who is showing symptoms. Spanish authorities said they were investigating how the nurse became in-

More than 370 health workers in West Africa have become infected in this outbreak, and more than half of those have died. Doctors and nurses there have

Saudi: Hajj free of Ebola amid protective measures

MOKHTAR SHEHATA
Associated Press

MINA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's acting health minister said Monday that this year's hajj has been free of Ebola and other contagious diseases because of measures taken by the kingdom to protect more than 2 million pilgrims who took part in the annual Islamic pilgrimage.

The hajj, which lasts around five days, ends Monday. Pilgrims began leaving the desert tent city of Mina, where they were taking part in the ritual of the stoning of the devil, one of the last rites of the hajj. Many headed back to Mecca, ending the hajj as they started it by circling the cube-shaped Kaaba seven times.

There were concerns re-

garding Saudi Arabia's readiness to ensure a healthy hajj for pilgrims after the kingdom became the epicenter for the potentially fatal Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS. Several health workers and doctors died of that coronavirus in Saudi Arabia earlier this year, raising alarm about the safety of hospitals.

Acting Health Minister Adel Faqih told reporters that the kingdom deployed thousands of health workers during the hajj and performed data screening on pilgrims upon arrival to the kingdom as a precaution. "I am pleased to announce that the hajj ... was free of epidemic diseases. May God accept the pilgrimage of our guests and ensure that they enjoy good

health and wellness," Faqih said.

Faqih told The Associated Press on the sidelines of the press conference that the kingdom's ban on issuing visas to people from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea would remain in place for the foreseeable future. The measure affects some 7,400 would-be pilgrims from the west African countries, which have been the hardest hit by the virus.

"That will continue until further notice until we are comfortable that it is not anymore an epidemic in these countries," Faqih said.

The World Health Organization estimates that Ebola has killed more than 3,400 people. □



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Missing McCann case: alleged web troll found dead

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A woman who was accused of sending Internet abuse to the parents of missing girl Madeleine McCann has been found dead in a hotel room. Her death has revived debate about media responsibility and how best to respond to online "trolls."

Television channel Sky News identified 63-year-old Brenda Leyland as a Twitter user who had attacked Kate and Gerry McCann under the name "sweepy-face."

Last week, a Sky News reporter confronted Leyland — who lived in the same county as the McCanns — on camera about the alleged abuse. She replied that she was entitled to send the tweets.

Police confirmed that Leyland's body was found in a hotel room near Leicester in central England on Saturday.

"Ms. Leyland's death is not being treated as suspicious and a file is being prepared for the coroner," police said. "Officers acting on behalf of the coroner will look into the circumstances surrounding and prior to her unexpected death."

Sky News said Monday it was saddened by Leyland's death but that it would be "inappropriate to speculate or comment further."

Madeleine McCann disappeared from a Portuguese vacation resort in May 2007 during a family holiday, days before her fourth birthday. The still-unsolved disappearance sparked intense media interest around the world.

The McCanns have complained about media intrusion. □

APNewsBreak:

Pope's sex abuse panel makes progress

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis' sex abuse commission has made new progress after languishing for much of the past year. It approved its legal statutes, proposed new members and divided up work to

clear mission statement, office space, funding and a full membership roster.

But commission member Marie Collins, herself a sex abuse survivor, told AP on Monday that much progress was made this week-end. It was the first meeting since Francis put the Vati-

graphic locations and including another survivor of abuse.

The commission will soon have permanent office space and members have divided themselves into working groups focusing on a laundry list of issues, including training of priests,

practices on how to keep children safe, how to keep the priesthood free of abusers and how to care for victims. O'Malley has pledged that the commission will develop "clear and effective protocols" to hold accountable bishops who covered up for abusive priests.

Collins said she had been frustrated earlier in the year with the slow pace of work on the commission, but was now more hopeful after the weekend's progress.

"I want to see change as fast as possible. But on the other hand if we're going to bring in change, it has to be the right change and it has to be well thought out and it has to be something that will last," she said. "There's no point in rushing something into place and then finding it has flaws."

In July, Francis had his first encounter with victims of abuse, meeting individually with a half-dozen men and women for more than three hours. Collins helped organize the meeting, attended one of the encounters and said she hopes Francis would meet with other survivors in the future.

"No matter how much you read, or learn or know about abuse, nothing brings it home to you like speaking to someone who has actually experienced it, and hearing what it has done to their lives and their family," Collins said.

Collins said that after witnessing Francis with the survivors, she is confident that he now "gets it." The commission met just as Francis convened bishops from around the world to tackle a related issue: church teaching and Catholic family life. □



Pope Francis, center, opens the afternoon session of a two-week synod on family issues at the Vatican, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014. Francis has urged bishops to speak their minds about contentious issues like contraception, gays, marriage and divorce at the start of the meeting aimed at making the church's teaching on family matters relevant to today's Catholics.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

focus on reaching out to survivors, holding bishops accountable and keeping pedophiles out of the priesthood, The Associated Press has learned. The commission met over the past weekend for the third time since it was announced last December. While Francis' other expert commissions looking into Vatican finance and administration worked at a frenzied pace through 2014 and finished their projects in recent months, the sex abuse commission never seemed to get off the ground. It lacked organization, a

can's sex crimes prosecutor, Monsignor Robert Oliver, on the job full-time as the commission's secretary, or No. 2. Headed by Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the nine commission members - four of whom are women - approved their provisional statutes laying out the scope of their work that will now be put to Francis for approval, Collins said. They also finalized a list of other member candidates whom Francis must approve: There will be fewer than 20 commissioners altogether, adding experts from other fields and geo-

education outreach, accountability, guidelines and policy issues and reaching out to survivors so their input to the commission can be heard, Collins said.

"Listening to their views on what is wrong and what needs to be put right has to feed into the overall learning," Collins said.

Francis named the initial members in March after coming under criticism from victims groups for having ignored and underestimated the sex abuse issue. The aim of the commission is to provide the church with the best advice and

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Overlooked opponent Neves faces uphill battle in Brazil

A. GOMEZ LICON

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Aécio Neves' surprisingly strong showing in the first round of Brazil's presidential election has turned the nation's politics on its head and put him within striking distance of incumbent Dilma Rousseff, but the former governor still faces a heavy task if he is to unseat her.

The business-minded Neves came within 8 percentage points of Rousseff in Sunday's vote and has momentum and a strong central-right party on his side. The challenge for Neves, who was born into affluence and political power, will be to connect with Brazil's poor, millions of whom have directly benefited from Rousseff's policies.

"He needs a more popular dialogue to build a bridge to those voters," said Mauricio Moura, a Brazilian pollster and professor of political strategy at George Washington University.



Aécio Neves, presidential candidate of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party, PSDB, flashes a victory sign as he arrives for a press conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014. A year after a spasm of huge anti-government protests across Brazil, President Dilma Rousseff piled up more votes in Sunday's election than any challenger, but it wasn't enough to avoid a runoff in three weeks. The race kept up its unpredictable nature as Aécio Neves, a center-right former governor and senator with deep political lineage, came in second.

(AP Photo/Nelson Antoine)

The 54-year-old economist has three weeks to do it. Neves defied expectations in Sunday's first-round

vote, finishing second with 34 percent to Rousseff's 42 percent. Socialist Party candidate Marina Silva,

who at one point led Rousseff in polling, finished third at 21 percent and will not advance to the Oct. 26

runoff.

Voters now have a clear choice: Re-elect the left-leaning Rousseff and endorse her protectionist trade stance or move to the right with Neves, who has promised to cut government spending, open infrastructure to the private sector and pursue direct trade deals with Europe and the United States.

They are positions certain to be attacked by Rousseff now that Silva is out of the race. Silva, a popular former environment minister, drew huge support after she was named to replace Eduardo Campos, her party's initial candidate who died in a plane crash in August. But her appeal waned after Rousseff launched an aggressive campaign to discredit her, including negative ads that portrayed Silva's plans to loosen control of the business sector as a threat to the social gains made under 12 years of Workers' Party rule □.

2 Peru governor candidates win despite drug probes

FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Two gubernatorial candidates under investigation in Peru for drug trafficking-related crimes have won election and two face runoffs after a nationwide vote for mayors, governors and municipal councils, according to unofficial results on Monday.

Hundreds of candidates suspected of ties to drug trafficking were on the ballot Sunday in what authorities called the Andean nation's most violent campaign since 2000.

According to unofficial results compiled by the Ipsos-Apoyo polling firm, the

winners included Manuel Gambini, a former coca grower in the Amazon state of Ucayali. As a mayor, Gambini promoted planting of cocoa beans and other alternatives to the crop that yields cocaine, winning praise from the U.S. Agency for International Development and a trip to Miami to showcase his efforts.

But an Aug. 29 judicial order launching an investigation of Gambini says he amassed a fortune and extensive land holdings with a small mayor's salary. Gambini calls the allegations lies propagated by his political foes. Also victorious was Gilmer Horna in the north-

ern state of Amazonas. The owner of a chain of chicken restaurants, he is under investigation for possible money laundering.

One of every three Peruvian voters lives in a region where candidates were investigated, on trial or previously convicted of drug-related crimes. Peru's state attorney for drug enforcement, Sona Medina, said her office had identified 700 such candidates.

It was too early to say how many won office Sunday. Medina did not release her list, and official electoral results remained incomplete Monday. Electoral authorities reported more than 100 incidents of election-

day violence, including the destruction of ballot boxes, temporary seizures of polling stations, threats to elections officials and destruction of vehicles.

"We haven't had situations of this magnitude in Peru for some time," said Gerardo Távora, secretary general of the citizen watchdog group Transparencia.

Not since the Shining Path insurgency, which was all but eliminated in the 1990s, has the country seen this level of political murder and death threats, he said. "Hit men are being hired to assassinate candidates." Two mayoral candidates were slain in gangland-style killings during the cam-

paign, both in cocaine-trafficking corridors, and on Friday, two police officers were shot and killed in an ambush blamed on drug-funded rebels in the Apurímac and Ene river valley, the world's top cocaine-producing region.

Peruvian law allows convicted criminals to run for office as long as they have been rehabilitated by court order. More than 1,300 candidates convicted of crimes — including rape and graft — were on Sunday's ballot, and two governors jailed under preventative detention pending possible corruption trials were re-elected, according to unofficial results. □



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Supporting Animal Rights Aruba: Aruba Aloe Demonstrates Commitment to Animal Welfare



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Aloe was the first merchant to hand over a check to Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) Saturday as they launched their latest campaign. Aruba Aloe does not test on animals and has been supporting ARA for a year now by putting collection

boxes for the non-profit in their stores. This action called 'Loose change, good change' helps raise awareness and funds for ARA's work. ARA, which was founded in 1999, launched their latest fundraising campaign on October 4th, World Animal

Day. They now wish to build their own 'no kill' animal shelter. Within six months ARA hopes to raise Afl. 190,000 for this shelter or at least enough to start construction. With the festive kick start event ARA urged the community to give them a help-

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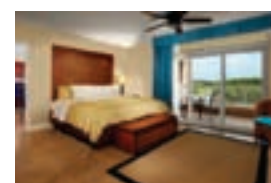
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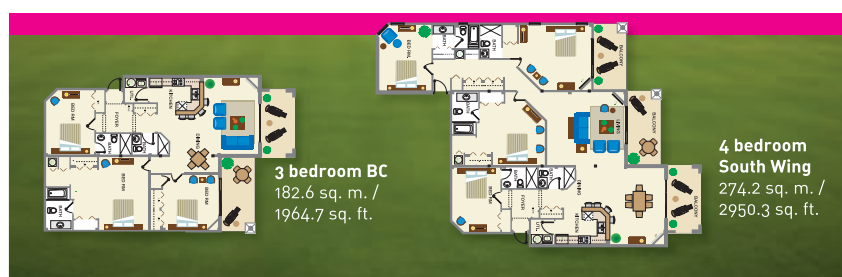
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ing hand in the months to come towards this goal. They gratefully confirmed that merchant's support is indispensable. Aruba Aloe's Jose van der Linde was first in line to hand over a symbolic check of Afl. 1,500 to help ARA along. Aruba Aloe's Melissa Acosta furthermore tells that often her coworkers find stray dogs while at work in the Aloe fields and that they try to give them some relief of thirst and hunger. Such shelter, starting with dogs is thus highly in need. So far five found street dogs have even been adopted by Aruba Aloe employees. The ARA collect boxes can now be found in the Aruba Aloe stores at Alhambra Shopping Mall, the Aruba Aloe Factory & Museum in Hato, the Renaissance Mall, Paseo Herencia and The Village. To expand their support rapidly, Aruba Aloe plans to have the ARA collect boxes in ten of their thirteen stores by next month. □

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U.S. routs Spain for 2nd straight gold medal

DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) — After dominantly winning another world championship, the U.S. women's basketball team left no doubt of the gap between the Americans and the rest of the world.

And with so much young talent in the system, it might be a while before anyone can catch up.

Maya Moore scored 18 points and earned MVP honors as the Americans beat Spain 77-64 on Sunday to win a second straight world title.

With Moore, Brittney Griner, Tina Charles and a host of others still yet to reach their primes, it's a scary thought. "This was a great first taste," Griner said. "It leaves me hungry for more. I'm going to pin this medal up on my wall. It's the biggest thing I've ever won."

With the exception of the Australia game, when Griner got in early foul trouble, the 6-foot-8 star was exceptional in making the all-tournament team. She had the first dunk in tournament history in the opener against China and dominated on both ends of the court.

"She has potential to be one of the best ever," coach Geno Auriemma said. "She is very coachable and picks things up very quickly."

Next up for the Americans is the 2016 Olympics in Rio. There's no reason to think they won't be a heavy favorite for a sixth straight gold there.

Continued on Next Page

DRY DOCKED

USA Swimming suspends Michael Phelps

In a June 22, 2014, file photo Michael Phelps swims in the warm up pool during the Santa Clara International Grand Prix swim meet in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press
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U.S. gold

Continued from Page 17

That Olympics could be the last go-round for Sue Bird and a few others, but with the young core still intact, as well as players like Chiney Ogwumike, Breanna Stewart and Elena Delle Donne in the pipeline, it will be hard to see the U.S. not continuing this run for a long time.

Bird became the most decorated player in world championship history with Sunday's gold. She has won three gold medals and a bronze in her career. "It was a great win for us," Bird said. "We had one goal the entire time this team's been together and that's win a gold medal. A lot of people see a lot of talent and think it's going to be easy and it's not. Whenever you can win a gold medal and it's a tough journey, everyone's happy. I'm definitely proud of this team."

Lindsay Whalen added 12



The United States basketball players and coach Geno Auriemma, right, pose with their trophy and gold medals following their victory over Spain in Basketball Championship for Women's final at Fenerbahce Arena in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014.

points for the United States (6-0), which hasn't lost in a gold-medal game in the world championship since 1983, when it was beaten by the Soviet Union 84-82. Except for a hiccup in 2006, when the Americans lost to Russia in the semifinals, they have won every Olympic and world championship game since 1996. If not for

that upset in Brazil, the U.S. would have five straight world titles.

"I know when I hear 2006, it still makes me mad," Bird said of her only bronze medal.

The Americans jumped out to a 13-point lead in the game's first 4 1/2 minutes. Spain (5-1) could only get within seven the rest of the

way. Moore was the key in that early burst, scoring 11 points during the opening 18-5 run. Her 3-pointers barely moved the net as the Americans blitzed Spain, which was making its first appearance in the championship game.

"It's always a focus, we want to punch first," Moore said. "I put pressure on my-

self and the starting five, we put pressure on ourselves to get a good start, set the tone for the game." The Spaniards rallied within 24-17, but then Whalen took over. She had nine points during a 13-0 run by the Americans spanning the end of the first and start of the second quarter to make it a 20-point game. Whalen ended the first quarter with a spectacular drive that ended with a floater in the lane right before the buzzer.

"We knew that we had to come in and provide a spark and I had an aggressive mentality," Whalen said.

The Americans led 48-29 at the half and by 25 points in the second half before Spain closed the game with a 14-2 run.

"It's sweet to have a silver medal around your neck as we are one step closer to a gold," said Sancho Lyttle, who led Spain with 16 points. "But it also hurts because we know we were almost there." □

Associated Press

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Doug Fister keeps Nationals postseason hopes alive

By JANIE McCAULEY
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Bryce Harper screamed out in delight as he crossed the plate with Washington ahead at last. After all those extra innings and a subdued cross-country flight, the Nationals had broken through - with a little help from Madison Bumgarner. Doug Fister pitched seven shutout innings and the Nationals capitalized on Bumgarner's one off-target throw, staving off elimination in the NL Division Series with a 4-1 win over the San Francisco Giants on Monday.

Fister dazzled again in San Francisco, helping the Nationals cut their deficit to 2-1 in the best-of-five series. They ended the Giants 10-game postseason winning streak that started with Game 5 of the 2012 NL Championship Series against St. Louis.

Washington scored two runs on Bumgarner's throwing error in the seventh inning to end the ace's 21-inning scoreless streak. Harper punctuated the victory with a solo homer in the ninth.

"Really it came down to every pitch," Fister said. "Fortunately a ball bounced our way."

Drew Storen allowed to the first two batters to reach in the bottom of the ninth but shook off his postseason struggles, allowing a run in closing it out as Washington forced a Game 4 on Tuesday night.

Now, the 96-win Nationals will send left-hander Gio Gonzalez up against San Francisco right-hander Ryan Vogelsong.

"We just needed one

break," Storen said. "It's been a tough couple innings here to start and we got our break. It's just a

outstretched glove and bounced all the way to the tarp along the left-field wall before rolling over the

Fister outpitched Bumgarner at AT&T Park for the second time in four months after a June gem, leav-

Storen, the beleaguered closer who gave up the tying run in Game 2, allowed Brandon Crawford's sacri-

fice fly in the ninth before finishing the 2-hour, 47-minute game. It was a far cry from Game 2, which took a postseason record 6:23. Five days after pitching a four-hitter in an 8-0 wild-card win at Pittsburgh, Bumgarner was on a roll again, this time for the orange towel-waving sellout home crowd of 43,627.

Ian Desmond singled to start the decisive seventh and Harper walked to bring up Ramos, who began the season as the Nationals' cleanup hitter. Harper slid into home for the second run, hopped up and hollered in



Washington Nationals pitcher Doug Fister (58) delivers a pitch in the first inning against the San Francisco Giants during Game 3 of baseball's NL Division Series in San Francisco, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014.

Associated Press

matter of building on it, and we live to see another day."

On a day Bumgarner had been nearly untouchable, his own miscue prevented a three-game sweep.

Bumgarner fielded Wilson Ramos' two-strike sacrifice bunt between the mound and the first-base line and fired to third rather than going for the sure out at first.

"We probably should have taken the out of first. I made a mistake telling him to throw to third," catcher Buster Posey said. "It happens. We'll come tomorrow, go through the pre-game routine and be ready to go."

Bumgarner's throw sailed wide of Pablo Sandoval's

bullpen mounds where two relievers were warming up. Sandoval nearly did the splits trying to make the play and stayed down in pain as the two runs scored. Trainers checked on the third baseman and he remained in the game. "We don't have Ramos bunt with two strikes," Harper said. "So if we don't have him get that bunt down, at least get us on second and third, having that errant throw by Bumgarner was huge for us."

Asdrubal Cabrera followed with an RBI single. He spent the final eight innings watching the Giants' 2-1, 18-inning victory Saturday night after his ejection for arguing a called third strike.

ing behind the frightening memory of his October outing here in Game 2 of the 2012 World Series. Fister took a line drive to the right side of his head that day - while also opposing Bumgarner - but stayed in the game and carried a shutout into the seventh before Detroit lost 2-0 and was swept.

Fister hardly needed that Japanese good luck figure that appeared in the NL East champions' dugout Monday morning courtesy of backup catcher Jose Lobaton. The right-hander, who grew up about two hours away in the Central Valley city of Merced, gave up four hits, struck out three and walked three.

triumph.

Bumgarner hadn't given up a postseason run since Carlos Beltran homered in the fourth inning of the Giants' Game 1 loss of the 2012 NLCS in St. Louis.

The pitcher had chances with the bat, too. He came to the plate with the bases loaded and two outs in the second to cheers of "Bum! Bum!" before striking out.

Sandoval extended his postseason hitting streak to 14 games with a lead-off single in the second, the longest streak in Giants postseason history and currently in baseball.

Brandon Belt was caught stealing in the fourth, only the second time anyone tried to steal against Fister all year. □



In an Aug. 23, 2014, file photo Michael Phelps of the U.S. holds up his men's 100m butterfly gold medal at the Pan Pacific swimming championships in Gold Coast, Australia.

Associated Press

USA Swimming suspends Michael Phelps for 6 months

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

Michael Phelps' comeback took a major hit on Monday, with USA Swimming suspending the 18-time Olympic champion for six months and forcing him to withdraw from next year's world championships.

Phelps also lost six months of funding from the sport's national governing body as a result of his second DUI arrest. The 29-year-old swimmer is banned from participating in USA Swimming-sanctioned meets through April 6, 2015.

Phelps can still train with his North Baltimore club, but he had already qualified

for the world championships in Russia next August, which is the biggest international meet leading up to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Phelps came out of retirement earlier this year with his sights set on competing at a fifth Olympics in Rio. Being barred from the world meet could put a serious dent in those ambitions.

His latest arrest came about a month after Phelps won three golds and two silvers at the Pan Pacific Championships in Australia. He had retired after the 2012 London Olympics, having won a record 18 gold medals and 22 medals in four games.

Phelps' monthly funding stipend of \$1,750 will be halted for six months, costing him a total of \$10,500. That is small change compared to the millions he earns through several major endorsements, including Aqua Sphere, Subway, Under Armour, Omega and Master Spas.

"Michael accepts USA Swimming's sanctions," according to a statement from his representatives at Octagon.

"He has apologized for his actions and, as he shared yesterday, is taking steps to address them."

Over the weekend, Phelps announced he was entering a six-week, in-patient program, a week after he was arrested and charged with drunken driving in his hometown of Baltimore.

"Swimming is a major part of my life, but right now I need to focus my attention on me as an individual, and do the necessary work to learn from this experience and make better decisions in the future," he said in a series of posts on his Twitter account.

U.S. Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said, "We think the sanctions are appropriate and we are glad that Michael is seeking help. We are grateful that nobody was hurt and appreciate the speed at

which USA Swimming and Michael took action."

USA Swimming said Phelps violated its Code of Conduct, and cited a section of its 2014 Rule Book in punishing Phelps. Its executive committee approved the sanctions, which take effect immediately.

"Michael's conduct was serious and required significant consequences," said Chuck Wielgus, USA Swimming executive director.

"We endorse and are here to fully support his personal development actions." While Phelps was still working out his schedule for the upcoming year, he will miss the first three U.S. Grand Prix meets in Minneapolis in November, Austin, Texas, in January and Orlando, Florida, in February.

The earliest he could return to Grand Prix competition would be at a meet in Mesa, Arizona, that begins April 15.

USA Swimming's punishment was its harshest ever imposed on its superstar. The governing body suspended Phelps for three months in 2009 after a photo emerged of him using a marijuana pipe, even though he was not charged.

USA Swimming took no action after Phelps' 2004 drunken driving arrest when he was 19.

Phelps was charged on Sept. 30 with driving under the influence, excessive speed and crossing double lane lines on Interstate 95. He registered .14 percent on a blood-alcohol test after he was stopped on a speeding violation; the legal limit is .08 percent in Maryland.

His trial is scheduled for Nov. 19.

If convicted, Phelps faces up to one year in jail, a \$1,000 fine and the loss of his driver's license for six months.

In 2004, Phelps was arrested and charged with drunken driving on Maryland's Eastern Shore, fresh from the Athens Olympics, where he won six gold medals. □

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HGH testing finally begins in NFL

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL has begun testing for human growth hormone for the first time, three years after the league and players' union tentatively agreed to do so.

HGH testing was part of the 2011 labor agreement but was delayed because the NFL Players Association was not comfortable with the procedures or science involved. Both sides agreed last month on the new policy, which took effect Monday.

A total of 950 tests will be performed during the regu-

lar season, postseason and preseason. In the offseason, about 385 tests will be done. Less than one tablespoon of blood will be taken from each player.

Each week during the season, five players on eight teams will be chosen randomly for testing as part of the normal testing procedures under the NFL's performance enhancing drug policy. No tests will occur on game days. Players subject to the blood testing must be on the active roster, practice squad or on injured reserve, and not already subject to reasonable-cause testing.

In the offseason, every player under contract not already undergoing reasonable-cause testing will be tested to a maximum of 90 per team.

One stumbling block in the agreement was the appeals process. Any appeal now will be heard by a neutral person, not by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell or someone he designated.

"For the first time in the history of the NFL, our new collectively bargained policies usher in a neutral arbitration process for appeals of positive drug tests,"



In his July 25, 2011, file photo, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, right, accompanied by NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, left, speaks during a news conference at the NFL Players Association in Washington.

Associated Press

NFLPA President Eric Winston said in a letter to union members.

The league and union also agreed to a minimum two-game suspension for a first driving-under-the-influence

conviction. Longtime suspensions would be imposed for cases with extenuating circumstances such as personal injury or property damage, or in cases of repeat offenders.

Donovan surrounded by youth for Ecuador exhibition

BOSTON (AP) — Landon Donovan will be surrounded by a relatively youthful roster for the United States' exhibition against Ecuador in Connecticut on Friday, when he is set to make his 157th and final international appearance.

The 32-year-old Los Angeles Galaxy forward, who is retiring at the end of Major League Soccer's season, is the American leader with 57 goals and 58 assists. A veteran of three World Cups, Donovan was controversially cut by U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann for this year's tournament in Brazil. "He comes in on Thursday and has a chance to really enjoy the atmosphere and the support of the fans," Klinsmann said. Miguel Ibarra, 24-year-old Minnesota United forward, was picked and could become the first national team player from the reformed North American Soccer League, a second-division competition that started play in 2011.

"I think that message is very important to everyone out there who becomes an adult player," Klinsmann said, "that based on the workload they are putting in and their talent, that

anything is possible."

Also among the 21 selections Monday were Real Salt Lake midfielder Jesus Gil, whose lone international appearance was against South Korea in February; 1860 Munich forward Bobby Wood, whose only game was at Bosnia-Herzegovina in August 2013; and a pair of players who made their debuts last month at the Czech Republic: Borussia Dortmund forward Joe Gyau and Tijuana defender Greg Garza.

DeAndre Yedlin, a 21-year-old Sounders defender who impressed at the World Cup, was selected for the game in East Hartford along with Alfredo Morales, who made his second international appearance against the Czechs.

Several veterans with MLS games on Wednesday and Friday were omitted, including Toronto midfielder Michael Bradley, Seattle forward Clint Dempsey, and Kansas City defender Matt Besler and midfielder Graham Zusi. Defender Fabian Johnson also was left off; he started for Borussia Moenchengladbach on Sunday after missing a game with an Achilles tendon injury.



In this July 13, 2013, file photo, United States' Landon Donovan gestures after scoring on a penalty kick during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer game against Cuba in Sandy, Utah.

Associated Press

"We left quite a few of the experienced players out because we want to give the younger players a chance to break in," Klinsmann said. "Guys like Kyle Beckerman, DaMarcus Beasley, Brad Davis, Chris Wondolowski and others are not in this roster, not because they aren't part of the national team moving forward, simply because we want to see the youngsters make their point."

Fulham midfielder Emerson Hyndman and Utrecht forward Rubio Rubin, who made their debuts against the Czechs, are with the U.S. under-23 team in Brazil along with Stanford forward Jordan Morris, who was in camp for the Czech match but didn't play. Klinsmann's only selections 30 or older in addition to Donovan were goalkeepers Brad Guzan (30) and Nick Rimando (35). Klins-

mann intends to revise his roster for the Oct. 14 exhibition against Honduras at Boca Raton, Florida.

"Maybe we let a few ones go after the Friday game back to Europe," Klinsmann said, "so they have a whole week of preparation for the next game (and) bring in some MLS players to fill in the blanks."

The U.S. team was to start training Monday at Harvard.

Is Goodyear to blame for Kansas tire problems?

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP)

— It's impossible to be perfect, to always get everything right and never fail at all.

To listen to Goodyear officials, the company never, ever comes up short at the race track.

It sure sounded like Goodyear thought it was off the hook on Sunday after a tire problem caused Dale Earnhardt Jr. to hit the wall while leading at Kansas Speedway. Then Brad Keselowski suffered a similar fate, and Kasey Kahne also thought an issue with his tires sent him into the wall.

It dropped all three drivers into the bottom of the Chase for the Sprint Cup standings, in serious jeopardy of elimination from the championship race in two weeks.

So what happened? Goodyear director of racing Greg Stucker didn't have a definitive answer during Sunday's race but sure seemed to be pointing the finger at the race teams.

"We're trying to figure out exactly what the issue is with the teams. Obviously,



In this April 3, 2014, file photo, Goodyear tire technical officials, whom did not wish to be identified, discuss tires at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

a race like this in the Chase, everybody is kind of up on the wheel and really pushing the envelope," said Stucker, who hinted that "adjustments" made as the race progressed led to issues that didn't exist during the first green-flag run.

Once again, we are led to believe this was not a Goodyear issue, but a problem with teams pushing the limits of their tires in an effort to capitalize in an important Chase race. Really? In a race where the risk was far greater than

any expected reward? Shame on Hendrick Motorsports and Team Penske if they were so aggressive that their drivers are now in danger of not advancing to the third round of the Chase. And poor Kevin Harvick, who took note of his rivals' problems and feared he was next when his car suddenly struggled to turn as he was running third with a shot at the win. Harvick made an unscheduled pit stop — forfeiting any chance at victory — to get the tires off his car be-

fore they completely derailed his season.

Only he was wrong, the problem wasn't with his tires, and his paranoia led to an unsatisfying 12th-place finish. But, hey, Harvick got off easy. Kahne finished 22nd, Earnhardt was 39th and Keselowski 36th in a race won by teammate Joey Logano.

Drivers are very careful not to disparage Goodyear, NASCAR's exclusive tire provider. Much ado was made earlier this season when Jimmie Johnson crew

chief Chad Knaus sarcastically quipped on the team radio that tire problems at Bristol were surely "something we did. I'm sure it's our fault."

It forced Johnson into a meeting with Goodyear officials where the tire manufacturer and the driver privately agreed to disagree on the cause of his failure. It put Johnson in no mood to be politically correct come New Hampshire in July, when two tire problems in the first 11 laps of the race ended his day.

"I'm expecting people to quickly point back at the team and say it's our fault," the six-time and defending NASCAR champion said that day.

Enough is finally enough. Yes, Goodyear must deal with repaved race tracks and changing rules, but it's implausible to believe Goodyear is never to blame (the company did accept fault for the 2008 debacle at Indianapolis). What's closer to the truth is that Goodyear's tire development, at times, is simply not acceptable for the top motorsports series in the United States.

Cilic loses to Karlovic at Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI (AP) — U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic was eliminated in the first round of the Shanghai Masters, losing to Ivo Karlovic 7-5, 2-6, 7-6 (2) Monday. Karlovic had 20 aces and won 85 percent of points on his first serve to prevent Cilic from securing his spot at the ATP finals in London. Cilic is in the sixth spot for the eight-man field, with several players not far behind as the season winds down.

The ninth-seeded Croat said he was feeling drained last week when he played his first tournament following his win in New York at the China Open in Beijing, where he lost in the quar-

terfinals to Andy Murray.

"This week I'm feeling better. The game, I'm feeling it's on the spot," Cilic said. "(At the) beginning of the tournaments I'm going to have to be more focused to go through first few matches. Happened the same in New York. I played a bit more rusty in the first few matches, then afterwards just everything was flowing."

Also, 10th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria was 4 for 4 on break chances in beating Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 6-3, 6-3.

Dimitrov, a Wimbledon semifinalist this year, is one

of the players trying to make up points to qualify for London. He is currently in 11th place, 335 points behind Milos Raonic in eighth. John Isner of the United States hit 22 aces and saved six of eight break points to beat Pablo Andujar of Spain 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-3. Isner, seeded 13th, is coming off a quarterfinal appearance at the China Open, where he lost to finalist Tomas Berdych.

"I'm still alive here. I'm glad I'm not on a flight home tomorrow," Isner said. "Playing better away from the States is something I'm always trying to do and I feel like it's something I've done so far."



Croatia's Marin Cilic returns a shot to China's Yan Bai during their first round of China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

Jack Sock came back from 0-3 down in the final set to defeat Bernard Tomic of Australia 7-6 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-4 in a night match. Tomic had 15 aces in the losing effort.

Kevin Anderson of South Africa, seeded 16th, ral-

lied to beat British qualifier James Ward 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Richard Gasquet beat Jeremy Chardy 7-6 (7), 6-2; Yen-Hsun Lu of Taiwan defeated Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2; and Tunisian qualifier Malek Jaziri beat Donald Young of the United States 7-5, 6-4.

Can Hewlett-Packard survive the tablet trend?

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Personal computer sales have been in a slump for years, as customers flock to increasingly powerful smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices. Now Hewlett-Packard, the Silicon Valley stalwart that was once the world's biggest seller of personal computers, is splitting off its PC and printing businesses. It's the latest shakeup in a tech industry that's being reshaped by the mobile revolution.

IBM sold its PC business years ago. Dell took its struggles private. Can an HP spinoff focused on personal computing thrive?

"There's a significant transformation going on in that industry, and maybe now HP can make its move," said Forrester tech analyst Peter Burris, one of several analysts who say the iconic tech giant will need to get better at building and selling mobile gadgets if it wants the new spinoff to succeed. HP has stumbled in previous efforts to sell those devices. HP's split is a sign that CEO Meg Whitman sees more growth and profit opportunity in selling commercial tech products, including data-center hardware, business software and cloud services, some analysts say. That's the business she plans to lead, as chief executive of a new company dubbed Hewlett-Packard Enterprise.

That puts more pressure on the HP Inc. spinoff, which will be led by current PC and printing executive Dion Weisler as CEO. Though it was once the world leader in both segments, HP is now No. 2 to China's Lenovo in PC sales. Tablets now out-sell laptop computers. And no other major U.S. tech company is focused on selling only PCs. Apple Inc.'s growth in recent years has been fueled by the phenomenal success of its iPhone and iPad devices. Dell also sells commercial computer hardware and software. Even Lenovo is purchasing IBM's server business and



This Nov. 14, 2011 photo, shows the company logo on a Hewlett-Packard keyboard at the Micro Center computer store in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

taking over the Motorola smartphone division from Google Inc.

PC sales aren't going away entirely, to be sure. There are still some cases where PCs are more useful than smaller-screen devices, especially in the workplace, said Bob O'Donnell of TECHanalysis Research. The industry sold more than 310 million desktop and laptop computers last year, and one out of six were sold by Palo Alto, California-based

HP. But global sales fell 10 percent in 2013 and are likely to fall another 4 percent this year, according to the IDC research firm. PC sales should level off in 2015, forecasts O'Donnell. "They can be profitable," he said, "but it's a stable, flat kind of market."

Printer ink has been a major source of profit for HP in years past. But printing also is a stagnating business, as more people store photos and files online and

view them primarily on their phones and tablets. Even so, tying the printing business to PCs should provide a stable source of revenue for HP Inc. for some years to come, said tech analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights and Strategy.

HP also could expand that business to include 3D printing systems and home networks for Internet-enabled thermostats and other gadgets, since many printers today are part of a home

network, he added.

Jettisoning PCs doesn't necessarily make Hewlett-Packard Enterprise a slam dunk. Analysts say HP has some good data-center products, but Whitman faces challenges in upgrading its commercial software and technology services businesses.

"Does this mean a new dawn is here for Palo Alto?" asked Burris. "No, it doesn't. It means that HP is going to have to do a lot of hard work to prove itself."

Hewlett-Packard has posted revenue declines in 11 of the past 12 quarters and laid off tens of thousands of people in recent years as it attempts to cut costs. During its most recent quarter HP reported revenue of \$27.6 billion, a 1 percent annual gain. It marked HP's first year-over-year increase in quarterly revenue since late 2011. Printers and PCs contributed roughly half the company's annual revenue, with the rest coming from commercial computer systems, software and technology services. HP first considered breaking off the PC unit three years ago, when Leo Apotheker was CEO. But the idea was controversial and Whitman rejected it after she took his place in 2011 and launched a lengthy turnaround. □

Hackers hit bank. Is your money safe anywhere?

KEN SWEET

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Hackers stole personal information from millions of JPMorgan Chase customers this summer, in one of the biggest breaches of a financial company.

The bank says only non-financial data was taken — names, addresses, telephone numbers and email. But that's still a lot of personal detail, and experts warn that customers need to be vigilant about identity theft in the next several months. The theft — involving 76 million households and seven million small businesses — raises questions about the

safety of personal information, especially at banks. What risks do people face? Will this keep happening? And can bank customers reduce the threat of identity or financial theft?

Q: How concerned should I be if the hackers didn't get Social Security numbers, bank account or credit card information?

A: We may not yet know the full scope of what the hackers were able to steal, says Eric Chiu, president of HyTrust, a cloud security company based in Mountain View, Ca. "They can sit on your network for months, siphoning off data before being detected," says Chiu. He says that custom-



In this Tuesday, July 16, 2013, file photo, an ATM is displayed at a Wells Fargo bank, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

ers' addresses and phone numbers could be used or sold to others who might combine that information with other stolen data.

It could then be used to access accounts or even to open new accounts in the unwitting customers' names. □

Wall Street edges lower; H&R Block slides

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Some encouraging corporate news failed to give the broader stock market a boost on Monday, and stocks edged lower as investors waited for news on the outlook for the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy.

Hewlett-Packard jumped after announcing that it is splitting itself in two. One company will focus on personal computers and printing and the other on technology services. Medical-equipment maker Carefusion surged on word that it was being acquired by its rival Becton Dickinson and Co.

But after opening higher, stocks gave up their early gains and alternated between small gains and small losses.

The market's bull run has faltered in recent weeks and the Standard & Poor's 500 index logged its biggest monthly drop since January last month. Stocks rebounded from that slump on Friday after a report showed a pickup in hiring last month, but many investors remain uncertain about the outlook for stocks as the Fed nears the end of its bond-buying stimulus program and considers raising rates.

"The tug of war between the bulls and the bears is ongoing now," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial.

The S&P 500 fell 3.08 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,964.82. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 17.78 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,991.91. The Nasdaq

composite fell 20.82 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,454.80. Hewlett-Packard gained after announcing that it is splitting itself in two.

One company will focus on personal computers and printing and the other on technology services such as data storage, servers and software. The stock climbed \$1.67, or 4.7 per-

The Fed is due to release minutes on Wednesday of its policy meeting last month and the central bank will end its bond purchases this month. Now investors are watching for clues about the likely timing of any interest rate hike. Investors should remember that if the Fed is raising rates, it will be because the

gest drop in the S&P 500 after saying that its latest attempt to sell its banking business is getting delayed in the regulatory approval process.

The tax preparer said it would not be able to complete the deal before the next tax season. Its stock dropped \$1.75, or 5.5 percent, to \$29.91.



Traders Anthony Riccio, left, and Patrick Casey work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Some encouraging corporate news failed to give the broader stock market a boost on Monday, and stocks edged lower as investors waited for news on the outlook for the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

cent, to \$36.87.

Carefusion jumped \$10.58, or 22.9 percent, to \$56.75 on news that it was being acquired by a rival. New Jersey medical equipment maker Becton Dickinson and Co. said it will pay \$12.2 billion for the company, in a combination focused on medication systems for hospitals and pharmacies. Becton climbed \$9.14, or 7.9 percent, to \$124.98.

economy is strengthening, said Karyn Cavanaugh, a senior market strategist at Voya.

"If the potential rise in interest rates is predicated on stronger growth....and if the market recognizes that earnings are good, and the economy is good then (higher rates) it shouldn't be much of an event," said Cavanaugh.

H&R Block logged the big-

Nasdaq-listed GT Advanced Technologies, a supplier to Apple, was also among the day's biggest losers.

The company, which is developing sapphire materials to replace glass on some Apple's products, lost almost all of its market value after saying that it was filing for bankruptcy. The stock plunged \$10.25, or 93 percent, to 80 cents. □

Corporate deals set to return to pre-crisis levels

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP)—In a year that's been awash with multi-billion dollar corporate deals, the number and value of mergers and acquisitions is set to grow further, reaching pre-crisis levels over the coming 12 months, consulting firm EY said Monday.

In its biannual Global Capital confidence barometer, EY said global M&A is on course to return to 2006 levels in the next year thanks to improvements in market conditions. Companies started getting reluctant to do deals in 2007 when the credit crunch really started.

However, the appetite for deal-making has picked up over the past couple of years as the world economy has recovered and stock markets, particularly in the U.S., have bounced back on growing confidence about the future. This year has seen a flurry of big announcements, particularly in the U.S., including AT&T's \$48.5 billion takeover offer for DirecTV and Facebook's \$19 billion bid for WhatsApp.

EY's survey found that 40 percent of companies anticipate pursuing acquisitions in the next 12 months. That's the highest level in three years.

It said the deals will not be confined to big names. In fact, some of the biggest activity will likely come from smaller firms seeking to strengthen their core businesses — it expects a big pick-up in deals valued at \$250 million and under.

"Stable asset prices as well as increasing confidence in stability of the global economy are encouraging a more buoyant outlook for M&A," said Pip McCrostie, EY's global head of M&A. "Having experienced many years of volatility, this growing stability provides greater certainty in terms of strategic planning, although executives will continue to closely monitor unfolding geopolitical events." □

Hilton selling Waldorf Astoria New York for \$1.95B

MCLEAN, Va. (AP)—Hilton Worldwide is selling the Waldorf Astoria New York to Chinese insurance company Anbang Insurance Group Co. for \$1.95 billion. Hilton will continue to manage the storied hotel for the next 100 years as part of an agreement with Anbang. The Waldorf Astoria New York has restaurants including Peacock Alley, Bull and Bear Prime Steakhouse and

Oscar's. The companies said Monday that the property will undergo a major renovation.

In March 1893, millionaire William Waldorf Astor opened the 13-story Waldorf Hotel.

The Astoria Hotel opened four years later.

The Waldorf Astoria New York, on Park Avenue in Manhattan, opened in 1931, according to the

company's website. At the time it was the largest hotel in the world.

The hotel became an official New York City landmark in 1993.

Hilton Worldwide plans to use proceeds from the hotel's sale to buy additional hotel assets in the U.S.

Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. was taken private in 2007 by private equity firm Blackstone Group LP.

The hotel chain returned to public stock markets in December 2013.

The McLean, Virginia, company is the world's largest hotel group with more than 690,000 rooms across 93 countries and territories.

Aside from Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, its brands include Hilton Hotels & Resorts, DoubleTree by Hilton and Embassy Suites Hotels. □

Facebook closes WhatsApp purchase now worth \$21.8B

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook has completed its acquisition of the mobile messaging service WhatsApp for almost \$22 billion, up from the original \$19 billion when the cash-and-stock deal was struck early this year thanks in part to the rising price of Facebook shares. Facebook named WhatsApp co-founder and CEO

Jan Koum to its board Monday. WhatsApp is by far the largest acquisition for the Menlo Park, California company, and bigger than any deals made by Google, Microsoft or Apple.

The price that Facebook was willing to pay raised eyebrows when the buy-out was announced Feb. 19, though analysts agreed that landing the popular

site made sense. Including cash, stock and restricted stock awarded to WhatsApp employees, the deal is worth \$21.8 billion based on Facebook's stock price on Monday.

WhatsApp has been growing rapidly, especially in developing countries like Brazil, India, Mexico and Russia, and now has more than 500 million users.

WhatsApp lets users chat with their phone contacts, both one-on-one and in groups. It also allows people to send texts, photos, videos and voice recordings over the Internet and lets them text or call people overseas without heavy charges. Free to use for the first year and costing \$1 per year after that, the service has no advertising.

Facebook, which has its own mobile messaging app called Messenger, plans to keep WhatsApp as a separate service.

The acquisition was approved by antitrust authority of the European Union on Friday.

Facebook's shares climbed 32 cents to \$77.76 in afternoon trading on Monday. □

Euro Disney shares dive as it announces bailout

GREG KELLER
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — In Europe, even Mickey Mouse is getting a bailout.

The Disney resort on the outskirts of Paris is getting a financial lifeline from owner The Walt Disney Company to handle rising debt and a decline in visitors at a time of economic uncertainty in Europe.

The 1 billion-euro (\$1.3 billion) lifeline will see the park's California masters take control of Euro Disney, which runs Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney Studios Park. Until now, the U.S. company owned only 40 percent of the theme park operator, alongside Saudi prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal and a host of small European investors who originally paid 11 euros a share for their piece of the Disney dream.

The shares have traded

under five euros for most of the last year, and Monday's announcement sent them lower still. By mid-day in Paris, the stock had plunged 7.2 percent at 3.20 euros.

The fiasco reflects not just a chronically disappointing performance by the company, but also the weak economic environment in Europe over the past six years, which has seen fami-

lies across the region cut down on spending.

Just over half of Euro Disney's guests are French. The British, Spanish, Dutch and Belgians make up a combined one third, according

to 2013 figures. Overall, the park welcomed 14.9 million visitors last year, but this year Euro Disney forecasts that to drop to between 14.1 and 14.2 million.

The European venture has never lived up to its founders' original attendance goals, which saw the park attracting up to 16 million annual visitors by 2004. In 22 years of operation, attendance has grown barely 28 percent.

By contrast, other international Disney parks, in Tokyo and Hong Kong, seem to be doing fine.

The Japanese outpost, which licenses the Disney theme and isn't owned by Disney, says it's been the most profitable Disney resort since opening in 1983. Its Chinese property, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, doubled its profit and saw revenue increase 15 percent. □



Mickey and Minnie Mouse pose in front of the Sleeping Beauty castle at Euro Disney theme park, in Marne-la-Vallée, east of Paris. Debt-laden Euro Disney's stock price is plunging after it announced a plan for its parent company to inject 1 billion euros to try to boost its finances. The company announced Monday Oct. 6, 2014 a plan for The Walt Disney Company to put 1 billion euros into Euro Disney. The aim is to give Euro Disney more money to invest in the amusement park.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

Bitcoin's price in dollars tumbles nearly 20 percent

SYDNEY EMBER
© 2014 New York Times

The price of bitcoin fell nearly 20 percent this weekend to its lowest level of the year, prompting worries of a crash.

"As the price is going down, some of us are under immense psychological stress," one user posted on Reddit on Sunday. "Please share how you cope with it."

On Sunday afternoon, bitcoin was trading at about \$300, up from a low of \$286, according to CoinDesk, a virtual currency website.

Some contend that bit-

coin's price is irrelevant and that it does not reflect the virtual currency's true value. Bitcoin is still most popular among speculators and technology enthusiasts and has yet to find a general use that will push it into the mainstream and help stabilize its price, they say.

Bitcoin's recent price decline can appear jarring, but it is nothing new. Indeed, some say the wild price swings have hindered its widespread adoption. Since it was introduced in 2009 by an anonymous programmer, or group of

programmers, bitcoin has fluctuated unpredictably in price. After reaching its peak of about \$1,150 late last year, the price has been in a prolonged slide. In August, a flash crash briefly set the currency world on edge, as the price dipped on one exchange to just over \$300 from nearly \$500. Bitcoin ended that day down about 12 percent. "For anyone complaining about the current price of bitcoin, remember it has more than doubled over the last 12 months," Roger Ver, a bitcoin enthusiast and investor, said in a

Twitter message Sunday. But even those most confident in bitcoin are having trouble explaining the recent decline.

One reason for the drop could be uncertainty over potential regulations. In July, New York became the first state to propose regulations for bitcoin companies. The comment period for the regulations, which were introduced by the Department of Financial Services, is set to end Oct. 21.

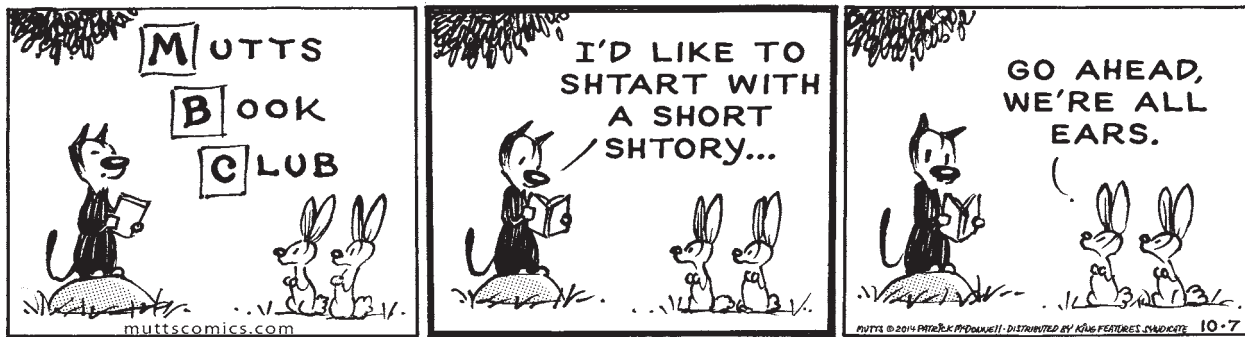
Bitcoin has attracted the attention of a number of other regulatory agencies in the United States, includ-

ing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service.

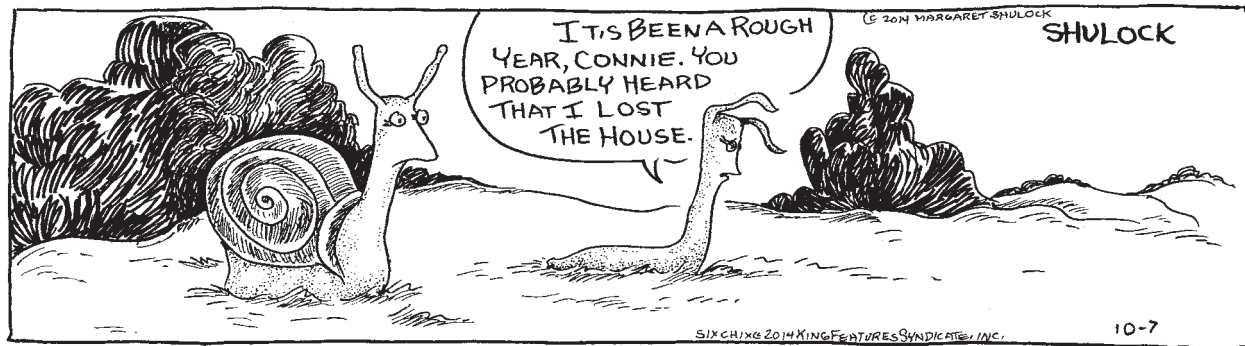
The increase in the number of merchants now accepting bitcoin could also be affecting the price.

"Right now, bitcoin is in this transition stage where it's a commodity trying to become a currency," said Rafael Corrales, a partner at the venture capital firm Charles River Ventures, who has followed bitcoin. "When bitcoin becomes a currency, it realizes its potential." □

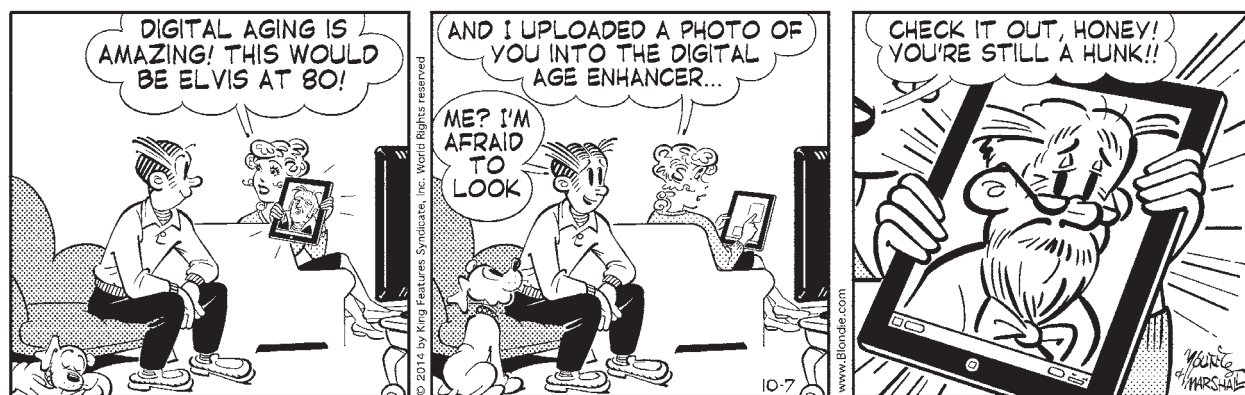
Mutts



6 Chix



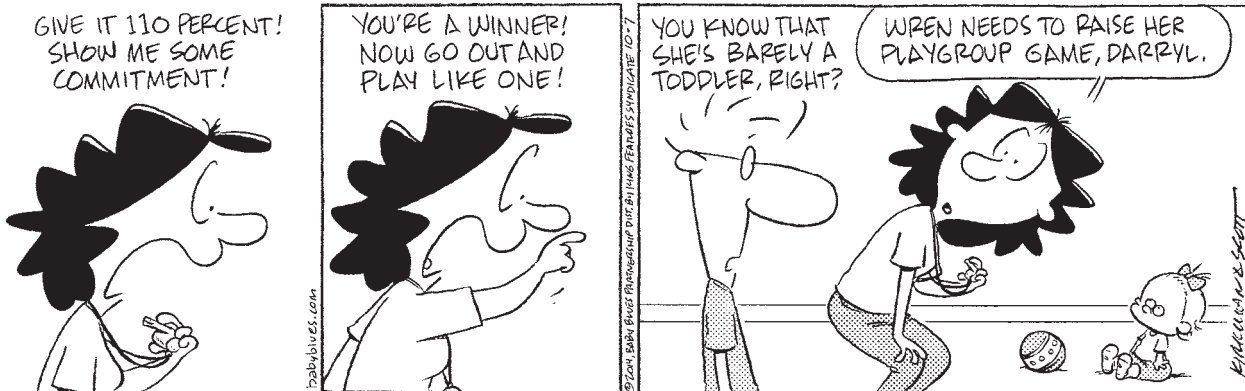
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4			9		2		
	6					8	3	7
5	3		2					
				5		9		
3								5
		6		4				
					4		7	1
8	9	7					6	
		3		7			9	

Difficulty Level ★★

10/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	8	5	9	1	6	3	7
9	6	5	2	3	7	8	4	1
7	3	1	8	4	6	2	5	9
8	9	2	7	6	4	3	1	5
1	5	6	3	2	9	4	7	8
3	7	4	1	5	8	9	2	6
5	1	9	4	8	2	7	6	3
6	4	3	9	7	5	1	8	2
2	8	7	6	1	3	5	9	4

ACROSS

- Odds and ...; miscellaneous items
- Bridges
- ... back; return
- Groovy, to today's kids
- Tea variety
- Middle ...; historical period
- Actress Lange
- Once more
- Get ready, for short
- Unity
- Humane ...; animal protection group
- Water barrier
- Earn; deserve
- More peculiar
- Car fuel
- Zsa Zsa ...
- Sightseeing trip
- Play on words
- Multi-colored cat
- Sing without moving the lips
- Bullfighter
- Nov.'s follower
- ... de corps; camaraderie
- Chatter
- Yellowish wood
- Adjust a clock
- Blushing
- Helsinki folks
- Thighbone
- Actor Knight
- Pensioner
- Natural environment
- Make a salary
- Run ...; chase
- One of the Great Lakes
- Set ...; release
- Enticed; drew
- Beer, slangily
- Toboggan
- Deviously
- Trevino's pegs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26	27	28		29				30	31	32	33	
34				35				36				
37				38				39				
40				41				42				
43				44				45				
46				47				48				
49				50				51				
52				53				54				
55				56				57				
58				59				60				
61				62				63				
64				65				66				
67				68				69				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/7/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

HARM	MEDAL	SHUN
OVER	OMEGA	TORO
LIPS	RECEPTIONS	
DDE	FORK	ANTS
	NOISY	ELK
MATURE	PAUSES	
APASS	VOLTS	SPA
TENT	SILOS	SPAR
ARC	SHEET	ALERT
SEATED	QUACKS	
TAD	TUTTI	
SPOOL	THEO	ARK
HANDLE	BAR	FLOE
APOD	RESET	ALLY
MARS	RAKES	DYES

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10/7/14

DOWN

- Reverberate

- Late for school
- TKO callers
- British peer
- Palm or spruce
- Part of the foot
- Factual
- Assistant
- Actress Harper
- Attempt

Where fans have stake in team, owners aren't silent about Goodell and violence

KEN BELSON

© 2014 New York Times

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Since video was published in early September showing former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice knocking out the woman who is now his wife, there has been a full-throated national debate about the NFL and domestic violence.

Women's groups, advocates for victims of abuse, sportswriters and even some players have urged Commissioner Roger Goodell to step down. Sponsors who typically tiptoe around such controversies have wagged fingers at the NFL.

Yet most team owners have stayed mum or offered only timid comments and instead have let Goodell speak for them as he tries to repair the damage that has been done to the NFL's image, and to his own. When allowed to remain anonymous, owners have expressed support for Goodell, and they have noted that he has apologized for having initially been lenient with Rice and that he has since strengthened the league's domestic violence policies.

Steve Bisciotti of the Baltimore Ravens is one of the few to have spoken publicly. He endorsed Goodell, which was not surprising given that he and the commissioner have a symbiotic role in the Rice saga. The owners of the Green Bay Packers have no such restraint. The team is community-owned, and tens of thousands of Packers fans are shareholders. Even if the shares bestow few rights, the owner-fans are in a unique position to comment on the scandal. In some ways, Packers shareholders are a proxy for fans across the nation and are, broadly speaking, the conscience of the NFL. The team has a national following and a long, storied history in the league's smallest market. And unlike the Dallas Cowboys, the Washington Redskins and other big-market teams, the Packers are without



Green Bay Packers fans during the game against the Minnesota Vikings in Green Bay, Wis., Oct. 2, 2014. The Packers as a team is community-owned, and even if the shares bestow very few rights, the owner-fans are in a unique position to comment on the NFL scandal of former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice knocking out his then-fiancee, unlike most team owners who have remained silent on the subject.

(Lauren Justice/The New York Times)

the imprint of a billionaire owner and a profit motive. Instead, they are run on behalf of their fans.

Given the team's unique structure, Mark Murphy hears often from the shareholders. As president of Green Bay Packers Inc., the nonprofit corporation that runs the team, he is more visible and accountable than the league's 31 other owners. And in the past few weeks, he has received his share of letters and emails. Most of the correspondence has revolved around the team, which is 3-2. But domestic violence has come up, too.

"It would be kind of disingenuous to say things were going well," Murphy said Thursday without a team spokesman at his elbow. "They're concerned, but they're glad the Packers haven't had these kinds of situations."

Murphy said Goodell had done many good things for the league but that he was also an easy target when things went wrong. He echoed other owners and fans when he said he hoped the league could move past the domestic violence crisis once the report on Goodell's handling of Rice's suspension was released, which could happen as soon as this week. "We're all anxious to see the investigation completed by the owners' meeting" in New York on Wednesday, he said.

A few hours later, fans filled the streets around Lambeau Field before the Packers played the Minnesota Vikings. □

Classifieds

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

by owner Divi Golf & Beach
2 rm suite #4206 wk 36 starts on 9/6, lock off master, 2 baths, steps to pool and affinity river, luxury interior granite etc \$5500 and week 40, ground floor, affinity river & pool, 2 baths, luxury interior \$5800 starts on 10/4 (rent in 2014 for \$1050) local 565-9394 until 9/9 e-mail rmwjmw@aol.com or US 508 651 0016

202517

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

by owner at below mkt pricing Divi Golf and beach week 40, luxury 2 rm suite, gated, affinity pool ground fl, rm 4106, 10/4 \$5500 and Aruba Beach Club wk 40, rm 128, \$3175 10/4

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202783

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Ruby 72

This spacious 4 bedroom property is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in North. It has enough space to build a pool or guest apartment. The garden is fully fenced-in and has nice a landscaped yard. The built-up area is 217m²/ 2321 sq.ft. including the covered back porch, land size 837m².

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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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Oranjestad: Sta. Anna Tel: 586-8181
San Nicolas: Aloe Tel: 584-4606

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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Proposal to protect fisher cites pot farm threat

By **JEFF BARNARD**

Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)

-- Citing a threat from rat poison used on illegal marijuana plantations, federal biologists on Monday proposed Endangered Species Act protection for West Coast populations of the fisher, a larger cousin of the weasel.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published notice in the Federal Register that it wants to list the fisher as a threatened species in Oregon, California and Washington.

The full proposal was expected Tuesday.

Other reasons for the proposal include the loss of forest habitat to wildfire, logging and urban development, disease, being eaten by other predators, illegal fur trapping and climate change.

The fisher is the second species in the West for which biologists have formally recognized a threat from marijuana cultivation.

A recovery plan for coho salmon calls for reducing pollution from pesticides and fertilizers used on pot plantations; decreasing illegal water withdrawals from salmon streams; and easing clear-cut logging. Scientists are also working to see how much the poisons are affecting the northern spotted owl.

Erin Williams, who oversaw the analysis for Fish and Wildlife, said the poisons are regulated, but the rules have done little to stop misuse on pot farms in forests where fishers live.

The full proposal notes that 84 percent of the 77 fisher carcasses found in California's northwestern moun-



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows a fisher, a larger cousin of the weasel that federal biologists have proposed protecting as a threatened species.

Associated Press

tains and the southern Sierra Nevada tested positive for rat poison. A map shows that virtually all fisher habitat includes illegal marijuana growing sites.

Six of the eight fishers tested on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington tested positive, said Mourad Gabriel, executive director of the Integral Ecology Research Center.

Gabriel says fishers eat fish and meat flavored poisons directly, or ingest prey that ate the poison used to kill rats that might eat young marijuana plants.

"There are hundreds upon hundreds of grows still out there - old remnant grows," Gabriel said. "When we vis-

it those, we are still finding rodenticide packaged in plastic containers."

The fisher is a house-cat-sized predator that makes its home in cavities in large

dead trees and is one of the few predators to prey on porcupines. It has been a candidate for protection since 2004. The current proposal to list it as a threat-

ened species is the result of a lawsuit settlement involving conservation groups.

"We are very glad the fisher is getting the protection it needs to survive," said Noah Greenwald of Center for Biological Diversity.

The species was once common throughout forests in the West before fur trapping and logging in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Small pockets of the animals are now found in the southern Sierra Nevada of California and the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains of northwestern California and southwestern Oregon. Fishers have been introduced in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon, Olympic National Park in Washington, and the northern Sierra of California.

Based on habitat availability, the overall population is estimated at less than 4,000. Other populations across forests of the northern and eastern U.S. are not covered by the proposal.

The agency is taking public comment for 90 days and having outside scientists review the proposal before making a final decision by Sept. 30, 2015. □

UNESCO report: Wreck off Haiti not 'Santa Maria'

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A report from the U.N. cultural agency released Monday concludes that a shipwreck found off northern Haiti could not be the Santa Maria, the lost flagship from Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Western Hemisphere, as a U.S. explorer had claimed. UNESCO said a team of experts who explored the site at the request of the Haitian government determined the wreckage was from a more recent vessel because they found copper artefacts.

The Santa Maria would have had parts made of iron or wood, the agency said in a press release announcing its findings.

The report, which the agen-

cy said was conducted in a "neutral and scientific manner," found that it is possible the actual wreckage may be buried under what is now land because of heavy sedimentation from nearby rivers.

U.S. explorer Barry Clifford had announced in May that he believed that he may have found the Santa Maria near the city of Cap-Haitien in what would have been a major archaeological find.

The ship struck a reef and was abandoned by Columbus in December 1492 and about two dozen crew members were left behind. Last month, Haiti's culture minister told The Associated Press that preliminary research indicated that the

ship was not the Santa Maria and Clifford said that he expected that the UNESCO report would raise doubts about his claims.

He said he believed that the ship could have had copper components and believed it could still be the lost vessel.

The explorer also said the agency had not consulted with him or reviewed his photos and charts before issuing its report.

In its report, UNESCO says Clifford announced his findings in the media before officially informing the Haitian government of his intention to continue his research in the bay of Cap-Haitien. The explorer said he had a permit. □



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In this June 30, 2013 file photo, Christian rapper Lecrae arrives at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Lecrae looks to break mold of a Christian rapper

JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Lecrae is dubbed a Christian rapper, but he considers himself a rapper who happens to be Christian.

The Grammy-winning artist (his album "Gravity" won for best gospel album last year) is trying to avoid being boxed into one genre. "I didn't really fit in either world," said Lecrae, 34, who's been endorsed by both Kirk Franklin and Busta Rhymes. "But it's telling to the gospel industry that there are people who crave a sound that is not traditional. To the mainstream industry, there's a voice of faith from all walks of life."

Last month, his seventh album, "Anomaly," became the first title to top Billboard's Top 200 and Gospel Albums charts in the same week. He believes this success could help bring him closer to being embraced by both gospel and mainstream music. He's been able to build a strong grassroots fan base with his "Church Clothes" mixtapes series, hosted by hip-hop producer DJ Don Cannon and featuring Bun B and B.o.B. He wants to provide thought-provoking messages of life in songs without sounding like a Bible-thumping preacher.

"That's all they know of me, so I have to reeducate with my presence," Lecrae said. "Most of my interviews are comprised of do you drink? Do you smoke? Do you

cuss? It's going to be a process for me to continue to be in people's faces and educating them on what my distinction is."

Lecrae doesn't smoke and tries to refrain from using profanities. He sometimes drinks alcohol, but not a lot. His arms are covered with tattoos. He normally wears his hats tilted to the side. And he often wears slightly sagging pants. He knew that he was viewed as too gritty in the gospel world, and he had to overcome the perception that his curse-free rhymes are too clean in hip-hop culture. Lecrae calls himself a "family oriented" man who attends a weekly men's Bible-study meeting. He's married and has three children, and makes sure he's home twice a week while on tour.

He recently appeared on "The Tonight Show," performing alongside the show's house band, The Roots, between segments. Lecrae also recently kicked off his 36-city tour that will conclude Nov. 21 in Atlanta. He said he was inspired by Kanye West's "Yeezus" tour last year.

West "had very strong messaging," Lecrae said. "He was trying to inspire and communicate with people with imagery. It was more than a concert. It was like a theatrical performance, Broadway show. Like him, I don't want to box myself in. I want to push myself to the further extent with this tour." □

Grant Gustin suits up as 'The Flash' in new series

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

When Grant Gustin found out he got the role of a lifetime, the lead of The CW series "The Flash" (Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT) as Barry Allen, a young man who gets struck by lightning and becomes the fastest person alive, his wait to begin shooting was anything but quick. It was a good nine months before he would suit up and head to set.

"I'm glad I didn't break a leg or something," joked the 24-year-old Virginia native in an interview.

TV viewers got a sampling of Gustin as Allen last year, when he appeared in two episodes of The CW's "Arrow" (before his character becomes "The Flash.")

That in itself was a big deal. "It was the most scene work I had ever gotten to do on camera. Even though I was guest-starring it felt like a big role already. It was really cool, really cool," recalled Gustin.

Prior to "The Flash," he was best known for a recurring role on Fox's "Glee," playing a high school student in



In this Sept. 16, 2012 file photo shows Grant Gustin at the Audi and Derek Lam Emmy Week Kick-Off in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

a rival glee club.

Gustin believes his dance background helped him land the role of Allen.

"I don't run like any type of athlete. I stopped doing any organized sports at 10 and started dancing. I'm athletic but in a dancer way," he explained. He's also "naturally lean" and now works to keep his endurance up so he can run on a treadmill in front of a green screen for running shots in "The Flash."

The casting process was a long one. He had "about

six auditions over a couple months ... including the testing process." He didn't feel confident until he started researching and discovered similarities to actor John Wesley Shipp, who played "The Flash" on CBS for one season in 1990. (Shipp plays Gustin's father in The CW version.)

"We're both from North-west Virginia and our birth-days are like days apart. (That's when) I started putting it out into the universe that I would get the part." □

'AHS: Freak Show' gets the red carpet treatment



Sarah Paulson, left, and Emma Roberts arrive at the premiere screening of "American Horror Story: Freak Show" at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Reporter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood rolled out the red carpet on Sunday for the premiere of "Freak Show," the fourth season of the FX network's "American Horror Story" series. Debuting Wednesday, this "AHS"

chapter set in Jupiter, Florida, in 1952 revolves around one of the last touring companies of physically different humans. The attraction includes a bearded lady, a woman with two heads and another with three breasts. The problem is that business is bad, forcing

owner Elsa Mars (portrayed by Jessica Lange) to go to great lengths to assure that the show goes on.

The show's co-creator Ryan Murphy said Lange came up with the concept.

"I think back in season one, she said, 'We've got to do carnival, freak shows,' and she kept sending me books," he said.

With his creative partner Brad Falchuk, Murphy eventually embraced the idea. He wanted the show to imbue a spooky, early 1950s sci-fi feel, and he wanted to give Sarah Paulson an impossible role.

She plays the characters of Bette and Dot Tattler, conjoined twins who may be the star attraction that Elsa's show desperately needs. □

Billionaires' artworks headed to auction

NEW YORK (AP) — Ninety modern and contemporary artworks, including a rare Mark Rothko painting, from the collection of the renowned art benefactors Pierre and Sao Schlumberger could realize \$85 million at the autumn art auctions next month.

"No. 21 (Red, Brown, Black and Orange)" has never been auctioned before and was purchased by the Schlumbergers directly from Rothko's estate, Sotheby's said Monday.

The work "could easily achieve a price in excess of \$50 million," said Oliver Barker, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Europe, calling it "among the finest examples of the artist's work remaining in private hands."

The painting was first exhibited in the seminal exhibition "15 Americans" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1952, a year after it was created. It has not been exhibited since a traveling retrospective of Rothko's work in 1971-72.

The current Rothko auction record is \$86.8 million for "Orange, Red, Yellow."

Among other highlights is Andy Warhol's 1974 "A group of Four Portraits of Sao Schlumberger," esti-



This undated photo provided by Sotheby's shows Andy Warhol's "A Group of Four Portraits of Sao Schlumberger," Sotheby's predicts the 1974 acrylic and silkscreen ink on canvas, from the collection of renowned art benefactors Pierre and Sao Schlumberger, could be \$2-3 million when it is auctioned in November. The Schlumbergers were the first patrons to commission Warhol for a silkscreen portrait.

Associated Press

mated between \$2 million and \$3 million.

Both works are scheduled to be sold on Nov. 11.

The remaining works are being sold by the Schlum-

berger family during Sotheby's impressionist and modern and contemporary art day and evening sales on Nov. 4-5 and Nov. 11-12.

Schlumberger died in 1986; his wife passed away in 2007.

By the time Schlumberger married in 1961, the oil billionaire had already amassed important works by modern masters including Henri Matisse and Pierre Bonnard. His wife expanded the collection to include such contemporary artists as Rothko, Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg and Ad Reinhardt. The couple developed close personal relationships with many of the artists.

The Schlumbergers were central figures in New York and Parisian society who helped fund the restoration of Versailles. They were patrons of the Pompidou Center, The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and the Museum of Modern Art and Lincoln Center in New York. They also were the first patrons to commission Warhol for a silkscreen portrait.

"Pierre and Sao Schlumberger belonged to one of the most important collecting dynasties of all time, but their vision was entirely their own: a unique aesthetic that blended their European roots with their American experience," said Barker. □

Poehler tour will include Seth Meyers interview

NEW YORK (AP) — Amy Poehler will have some celebrity friends — and her high school English teacher — on hand for her upcoming book tour.

The star of "Parks and Recreation" has four appearances planned to promote her memoir "Yes Please," Dey Street Books told The Associated Press on Monday. After an Oct. 27 reading at Barnes & Noble in New York City's Union Square, she'll speak with former "Saturday Night Live" colleague Seth Meyers uptown at the 92nd Street Y on Oct. 28, the day the book comes out. Norman Lear will join her at the University of California, Los Angeles on Nov. 10. Poehler will chat with her former teacher, Kathy Dalton, at Boston's Back Bay Events Center on Oct. 29. Dey Street is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. □

NBA extends television deals with ESPN and TNT

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA has extended its television deals with ESPN and TNT for nine years.

The league announced Monday that the new contracts will run through the 2024-25 season. The previous eight-year agreements end after the 2015-16 season.

The NBA received about \$930 million annually under the old deals.

The NBA Finals remain on ABC, ESPN's broadcast partner. ESPN/ABC and TNT will continue to split the conference finals.

ESPN and ABC are adding 10 regular-season games, bringing their total to 100. TNT will air an additional 12 games over the second half of the season on nights other than its traditional Thursday, bringing its total to 64. □

Geoffrey Holder, director and actor, dies at 84

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Geoffrey Holder, a Tony Award-winning director, actor, painter, dancer and choreographer who during an eclectic show business career led the groundbreaking show "The Wiz" to Broadway, pitched 7-Up on TV and played a scary villain in a James Bond film, has died. He was 84.

Holder died Sunday of complications of pneumonia at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital in New York, according to Anna Glass, a producer and family friend. The 6-foot-6, Trinidad-born Holder won Tonys in 1975 for directing and designing the costumes for his

all-black retelling of "The Wizard of Oz." In 1978, he directed and choreographed the lavish Broadway musical "Timbuktu!" starring Eartha Kitt and earned another Tony nomination for best costumes. On TV, Holder played roles on TV's "Tarzan," voiced the leader on the PBS Kids animated show "Cyberchase" and pitched 7-Up as "the un-cola" in a commercial in which he wore a white suit and hat, purring "maaarvelous" as he drank the soda.

During 1955 and 1956, Holder was a principal dancer with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in New York. He also appeared with his troupe, Geoffrey

Holder and Company and worked with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pennsylvania Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem. His film roles include playing Punjab in the 1982 film version of "Annie," a role in 1967's "Doctor Dolittle" with Rex Harrison, opposite Eddie Murphy in "Boomerang," narrating Tim Burton's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," and playing the top-hatted voodoo villain Baron Samedi in "Live and Let Die" — the first of the 007 movies to star Roger Moore.

Holder co-authored and illustrated a collection of Caribbean folklore, "Black Gods, Green Islands" in 1959, and had a book of



In this March 10, 2005 file photo, Geoffrey Holder poses at the French Institute Alliance Francaise' "La Nuit des Etoiles" dinner in New York, honoring French actress Catherine Deneuve.

Associated Press

recipes, "Geoffrey Holder's Caribbean Cookbook" in 1973. He painted throughout his life and received a Guggenheim fellowship in fine arts in 1956. He is survived by his wife, the dancer Carmen de Lavalade and their son, Leo. □

Serving Without Protecting



FRANK BRUNI
© 2014 New York Times

My mother used to leave the front door unlocked. She used to leave the side and back doors unlocked, too. This was mostly a function of sloppiness - she had four kids, three pets and a whole lot else on her mind - but when pressed about it, she reasoned that anyone bent on intrusion would find a way and that it was all a matter of chance in the end.

She missed her calling as the director of the Secret Service.

What we've discovered over the past week and a half about the crackerjack operations of this elite agency boggles the mind, and nothing I learned during Tuesday's congressional hearing into its procedures did anything to un-boggle it.

The subject was how, on Sept. 19, a deranged man managed to get deep inside the White House - much deeper, it turns out, than the agency initially let on. We were first given the impression that he'd merely made it through the front door. Only later did The Washington Post and other news organizations unearth that he had zipped down the vestibule, past a staircase, through the East Room and almost to the Green Room. By the time all the facts emerge, we'll find out that he treated himself to a grilled cheese and a glass of Ovaltine in the kitchen, where he was interrupted mid-sandwich and given a doggie bag.

At the hearing, there were acute questions and ludicrous ones, genuine concern and disingenuous grandstanding, florid preening and runaway egos, which is to say that many politicians were crowded into one room.

There was verbiage so oblique it barely qualified as English, which is to say that government officials testified. Front and center was the head of the Secret Service, Julia Pierson, who behaved in the manner of so many beleaguered bureaucrats before her. She pledged reviews, reports, inquiries and assessments - a brimming thesaurus of self-examination - and tried to run out the clock.

She muttered sentences like this: "In downtown areas, there is sound attenuation."

This was a reference to the Secret Service's confusion in 2011 over whether someone had been shooting at the White House or a motor vehicle in its vicinity had backfired.

The answer was shooting: Seven bullets hit one of this country's defining symbols, which is also the president's private residence, in which he and his family must feel - and be - unconditionally safe. And it wasn't Secret Service agents who identified the evidence. It was a housekeeper, happening upon shattered glass days after the fact.

These aren't minor, random smudges on the record of the Secret Service, which was also embarrassed a few years ago when agents on assignment in Colombia partied with prostitutes. They're cause for grave worry and a different kind of housecleaning.

Nothing about the events of Sept. 19 honors the responsibilities and capabilities of a great nation. According to Pierson's testimony, two agents that day had eyes on the intruder, who was known to them as a potential troublemaker and had shown up at the White House fence less than a month earlier with a hatchet. They were right not to detain him then: He'd committed no crime. But how could their monitoring of him during his return visit be so lax that he even got over that fence?

Not a beast or a beep worked properly. The guard dogs didn't guard. The alarm boxes didn't alarm. The front door couldn't be locked automatically as he sprinted toward it, because it wasn't rigged that way. We can fly drones over Pakistan, but we can't summon a proper locksmith to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.? Time and again, Washington validates the naysayers who like to dismiss it as the capital of bureaucratic incompetence. The president unveils his signature health care reform - arguably the cornerstone of his legacy - and the website repeatedly crashes. The IRS loses whole years of emails. A contractor for the National Security Agency steals away with a seemingly bottomless trove of classified documents.

The Department of Homeland Security fails to keep track of more than 6,000 foreigners in the country on student visas, or so ABC News reported in early September. And don't even get me started on the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There's precedent, yes, for White House intrusions. An uninvited guest once watched a movie with Franklin D. Roosevelt before being detected.

And America isn't alone. In 1982, Queen Elizabeth II awoke in Buckingham Palace to encounter a strange man in her bedroom. He and she reportedly chatted for 10 minutes.

I guess the palace didn't have all the "layers" and "rings" of security repeatedly mentioned at the congressional hearing, though a lot of good all those layers and rings did us. In the end, it's people who make the difference. The Secret Service needs better ones. □



Securing Social Security For America



GAIL COLLINS
© 2014 New York Times

There was this at the Senate debate in Iowa:

"I will fight hard to protect Social Security and Medicare for seniors like my mom and dad because our Greatest Generation has worked so hard for the American dream for our families," said Republican Joni Ernst.

Like many conservatives, Ernst supports some sort of privatization in the Social Security program.

She's a little hazy on the details. But we do know that the Greatest Generation is the name Tom Brokaw gave to the Americans who came through the Depression and spent their young adulthood fighting World War II. They would actually be Ernst's grandparents.

There are two possible interpretations to her statement:

A) She wants to portray Social Security and Medicare recipients in the noblest light possible.
B) She is promising to protect benefits for everybody older than 85.

I detect some anti-boomer sentiment. Ernst is 44, and like most people born after the mid-1960s, she probably resented having to grow up under our self-absorbed shadow.

"But many of those boomers, now in their late 60s, depend on Social Security, especially after the Great Recession," said Brokaw, who always takes the high

road on generational matters.

Maybe Ernst just identifies the whole 60-something generation with Hillary Clinton; Ernst's husband did refer to Clinton as a "hag" on his Facebook page. Although that incident was less about Social Security than about the inadvisability of giving political spouses access to social media.

The Senate race in Iowa is one of the tightest in the country, and the debate drew so much attention that it got a segment on "The Daily Show." Jon Stewart highlighted the part where Ernst got personal with her Democratic opponent, Rep. Bruce Braley. ("You threatened to sue a neighbor over chickens that came onto your property.")

We are not going to have time to delve deep into the controversy that is known to political junkies as Chickengate. We are focusing on Social Security! We haven't talked about this issue for a long time, and it ought to be part of our election-year repertoire.

Conservative Republicans still tend to hew to the theory that the system is "going bankrupt" and needs to be turned into some kind of private retirement investment account. They also generally promise to protect people 55 or older from any change.

"I'm not going to take away your Social Security. Don't worry about it.

Anybody over 55 doesn't have to worry about any reform measure," said Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas in a recent debate. He added: "You don't have to worry about doing anything with Social Security in the next part of this session. Harry Reid will block that real quick."

Mentioning the mendacity of Majority Leader Harry Reid in every other sentence is a verbal tic Roberts has acquired. However, if you break that statement down, what he seems to be saying is that if you're, say, 52 and want to make sure Social Security stays the way it is, you will have no problem as long as Demo-

crats control the U.S. Senate.

By the way, Social Security is not going bankrupt. In 2033, incoming payroll taxes will no longer be enough to pay for all the benefits. But they'll still cover about 75 percent of the payments and we could take care of the rest of the problem with a few tweaks - like getting rid of the cap on Social Security taxes. (Currently, all income over \$117,000 is exempt from the payroll tax.)

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities also helpfully points out that "by coincidence," the amount Social Security would need to stay completely in balance over the next 75 years is almost exactly the same as the amount the government lost when Congress extended the Bush tax cuts for people making more than \$250,000 a year.

And Social Security is a terrific program.

It currently lifts more than 15 million elderly Americans out of poverty and provides many millions more with comfort and security they wouldn't otherwise enjoy. Its administrative costs are well below 1 percent of expenditures.

"It's much more efficient than private sector retirement programs," said Jason Furman, the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, in a phone interview.

Furman actually thinks Social Security spending should be increased, to create a minimum benefit floor.

Elderly women who've had an irregular work career due to family demands often wind up losing a critical part of their coverage when their husbands die.

"Even George Bush wanted to extend the minimum benefit," he said.

If you happen upon a congressional debate in the next few weeks, feel free to ask the candidates what they're going to do to protect Social Security. Bring along a 54-year-old friend who might helpfully burst into tears when anyone starts promising to protect the 55-year-olds. □

Room Escape Attractions Growing in United States

DAVID FISCHER
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— I like to think of myself as relatively quick-witted, but I started having serious doubts about my cleverness as I stood handcuffed to my new Russian friend, trying get out of a prison cell.

It wasn't a real prison cell, which is why I wasn't having a panic attack. But the handcuffs were real, and being chained to another person while searching a small room for keys and clues as a clock ticked down became frustrating pretty quickly.

Believe it or not, this was all part of a game. Real-life room escape attractions began opening nearly a decade ago in Asia and Eastern Europe, but they've been popping up in North America over the past few years.

The attractions trace their origins back to escape-the-room video games, where players were trapped and forced to use clues and objects in their surroundings to get out. Now that concept has moved into the real world.

Escape the Quest opened in Miami Beach in July. They offer two games — Apartment 101 and Prison Escape — with Mental Hos-



Yuliya Pashkevich, manager of the Escape the Quest, poses at the attraction in Miami Beach, Fla. Escape the Quest offers two games; Apartment 101 and Prison Escape, where groups of two to four have an hour to solve a puzzle and win their freedom.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

pital coming soon. Groups of two to four have an hour to solve the puzzle and win their freedom.

I participated in Prison Escape, joining a group of expat Russians in their mid-20s — Alex Belousov, Konstantin Elizarov and Lucy Omelchenko — who moved to South Florida within the past two years.

Their English was heavily accented, and my Russian is nonexistent, adding a language barrier to a challenge that only about 20 percent of groups com-

plete successfully, according to Escape the Quest manager Yuliya Pashkevich.

As Konstantin later remarked, "You don't understand us, and we understand 50 percent of yours." So we were off to a good start.

To begin, Pashkevich explained that Prison Escape actually includes two rooms and that my new friends and I would be paired off, one pair locked in each room. We would first have to get all four into

one room and then all escape together.

Alex spoke the best English, so he went with me. We were all handcuffed to our partners and locked in our cells.

I promised Pashkevich I wouldn't give away any secrets, but I will say Alex and I did eventually find a handcuff key, probably much later than we should have. By working with Konstantin and Lucy through a wall, we even managed to get them into our room. And by briefly speaking in their na-

tive tongue, Alex and Konstantin figured out a math riddle that set us free with about 5 minutes to spare. I felt useless at that final math part, but even the third-string quarterback gets a ring when his team wins the Super Bowl, so I'm counting it as a win.

After escaping, Alex, Konstantin and Lucy donned old-timey, black-and-white prisoner outfits for a photo op. They agreed they had fun and that it was a unique experience they'd recommend to others.

"It was the first time seeing something like this," Konstantin said. "It was very good."

Pashkevich said the escapes, which start at \$60 a group, were designed to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds. Besides groups of friends, Pashkevich said it's also common to host families and even co-workers using it for team-building.

But she added the potentially stressful room escapes can be poison to a budding romance.

"You know when it doesn't work?" Pashkevich said. "On a first date."

While room escape attractions are more stressful than actually scary, they're catching the attention of more traditional haunted house operators and theme parks. □



Konstantin Elizarov and Lucy Omelchenko are handcuffed together as they prepare to play a game at Escape the Quest in Miami Beach, Fla. Escape the Quest offers two games; Apartment 101 and Prison Escape, where groups of two to four have an hour to solve a puzzle and win their freedom.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)